

TOYS FOR KIDS



Sarah Stacey

Lots of simple soft toys
to make for children


Cuddly toys are the joy of all small children – and many adults – but often they are prohibitively expensive. Following on from the success of her *Cakes for Kids*, Sarah Stacey shows how endearing toys can be made quickly, simply and cheaply. She provides patterns and instructions for teddy bears of various sizes, rag dolls with changes of wardrobe and lifelike accessories, cuddly elephants, leopards, ducks and even koalas.

There is also a section of ideas for toys children can make for themselves – a godsend on rainy days – and a ‘swimming pool game’, in which goldfish and dolphins confront each other on a sea-blue draughtsboard.

Uncluttered colour photographs make the book stunning to look at and lifesize stencils make it refreshingly easy to follow.

Jacket photo by Christopher Ridley





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Sarah Stacey

with lots of help from
Rona Kemp

Photographs by Christopher Ridley

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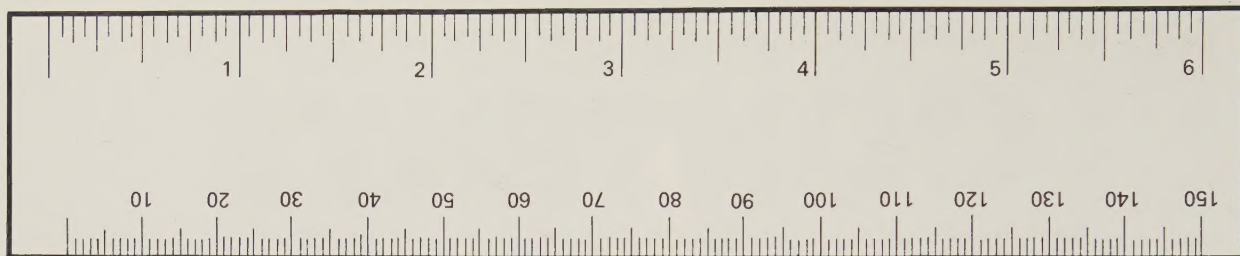
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All the measurements given in this book are in metric, and the ruler above may help you to convert to inches if you need to.

1 inch = approximately 2.5 cm

10 cm = approximately 4 inches

1 yard = approximately 90 cm

1 metre = 39.3 inches

I could only buy stuffing in grams; if you find it in ounces:

1 lb = 453 gms

1 oz = 28 gms

100 gms = approximately 3½ oz

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INTRODUCTION

My formative years were spent attached to a large pink bear called Lalla. We were inseparable until I was in my mid 20s when the stuffing fell out of her paws, her pink fur turned to grey and she retired to an old post office in Buckinghamshire. She sits in a rocking chair in the spare bedroom and I visit her quite often.

Over the years her place has been filled by other friends, notably a blue rabbit with lippy lugs and a small black dog with great charm but too many hard corners.

Despite my affection for these cuddly toys, I had never dreamt of making them myself. Toys were things you bought in shops and they were jolly expensive so you tried to buy them at Women's Institute stalls and village fêtes instead. The idea of designing and making a bookful of teddy bears, rag dolls, various cuddlies and even pom-pom ducklings was a million miles away.

Picture my astonishment then when Elm Tree asked me to do just that. "But I've never made a toy, I don't know what to do," I said feebly. "What about the gussets?" I had heard about them – they were a Big Problem for people like me who could only just sew an A-line skirt or make a tray cloth. These publishing people finally persuaded me that they meant business, however, and I set off to find someone who could help.

Without Rona Kemp, this book could not have been written. She is an expert seamstress and pattern cutter whose talents solved the gusset problem and many others. She helped to design the toys and gave endless practical and moral support. By the time I had finished the book, I could even cut a tolerable pattern myself and you will probably be able to do the same.

All the toys are easy to make but some are more fiddly and time-consuming than others. It

helps to start with one of the quickest, the seal or a teddy bear perhaps, or even the Mother Duck and her demented ducklings. As each toy was finished, it came out visiting to play with small children. I wanted to make sure that each design was able to stand up to a reasonable amount of strain and, even more important, was appealing to children. So the contents of this book really have been consumer-tested.

I loved making these toys and dreaming up new ones and I had a lot of help from my friends. My opposite neighbour, Rebecca Lawrence, aged 16, used to dash in for tea and an update after school every day and she gave me lots of ideas, advice and enthusiastic support. Val Mangold and Annie Lickett provided ideas and inspiration for Christmas Tree decorations. Susannah Webster advised me about the safety side and Clive Syddall made endless comforting cups of hot chocolate.

Very special thanks must go to the photographer, Christopher Ridley, who gave unstintingly of his time and talent, and to Kyle Cathie, who thought of the original idea.

And finally thank you to all the children who appear in the photographs: Abigail and Jessica Mangold playing the Swimming Pool Game; Jonathan Taggart with the Crocodile Oven Glove; David Hearn feeding cornflakes to the Elephant; Poppy Ridley disporting herself with the Blue Bear; Kate Pakenham strapping on the Bear Bag watched by Gary Allen; small Emily Wallace who was snatched from her fishfinger lunch to appear in the Packing Doll picture; and Max Webster who said we could take a hundred photos of him if we really wanted, perched precariously on a wall with the American Footballer.

I hope these toys give you as much pleasure as they have given to all of us.



GENERAL GUIDELINES

EQUIPMENT

FOR PREPARING PATTERNS

Tracing paper (available from stationery stores) or greaseproof paper, pencils, quartz rubber

NEEDLES

The size of needle you use is unexpectedly important. The best thing is to buy those packs of assorted needles and be prepared to swop in mid-seam if necessary. For fine work, you need a small thin needle, but to sew most of the toys it is easiest to use a medium to long needle which is quite strong, so that you can push easily through thick materials like double fur fabric seams. You will also need a large needle with a wool eye (like a darning needle) for sewing nose and mouth on bears and such like.

SCISSORS

Although it is not strictly necessary, it is worth having three pairs of scissors:

- ☐ One large pair of sharp cutting-out scissors to cut materials
- ☐ One small pair to snip threads, cut small bits of felt etc.
- ☐ One medium sized pair solely for paper cutting. N.B. Don't use the cutting out or snipping scissors for paper cutting, it blunts them instantly.

THIMBLE

You will definitely need one of these.

QUIK UNPIK

This is a useful tool for unpicking misplaced stitching.

STUFFING STICKS

For pushing stuffing into bodies and particularly into corners, there are several useful tools: chopsticks, thick gauge knitting needles, the handles of wooden spoons, lengths of dowelling or cane with a V-shaped notch cut in the end so that the stuffing is gripped in the pusher – make sure that the notch is smooth or you will find the filling doesn't leave the stick.

GLUE

I found Copydex the most useful all-purpose glue; other people swear by UHU.

FRENCH CHALK/MARKER PENS

To mark seam allowances, stuffing spaces, etc.

MATERIALS

FUR FABRIC

I bought almost all the fur fabric used in this book from John Lewis, who have a far better range of toymaking materials than any other store. The range of colours is glorious, although sadly, with a couple of exceptions, they are all shaggy rather than close pile fabrics. I have looked all over the place for that velvety synthetic fur which is short and springy, but have never found it – perhaps you will have more luck.

Fur fabric is not vastly expensive and it is worth buying 0.5 metre at a time, although some of the toys in this book will need rather less; any left-overs from the larger quantity always come in useful later. (It's also excellent playstuff for rainy days – Max Webster made an owl from leopard remnants and computer paper.)

All synthetic fur fabric is washable, can be combed out and is kind to the less expert seamstress – the fluffy fur hides a multitude of odd stitching.

The following tips are essential knowledge when you are using fur fabric:

- ❑ When positioning the pattern on the wrong side of fabric, always check that the fur is running the right way before cutting.
- ❑ Cut fur fabric through cloth not fluff (i.e. wrong side up).
- ❑ When you pin the seams with right sides together, tuck the fluff on the raw edges *inside* the two pieces of fabric: it is easier to sew and the fur will be more plentiful on the seam line, which makes it look better.
- ❑ When you have finished the toy, tease captive fur out from seams with a darning needle or wire comb.
- ❑ Seam allowance: 7 mm to 1 cm.

TOWELLING

Towelling is a wonderful fabric for soft toys, both cuddly and washable. If you want to make a bath toy, use towelling for the shape and foam chips for the stuffing. The disadvantage is that it frays, so you must be sure to leave a generous seam allowance – 7 mm to 1 cm. It is worth oversewing the raw edges, either by hand with blanket stitch if you have the patience, or machine edges in blanket stitch or zigzag. Towelling is slightly more expensive than fur fabric, but you could recycle old towels – which usually wear out in patches, rather than overall – as cuddly toys.

FLEECE

With the difficulty of finding shortpile fur fabric, I turned to fleece. This is a soft cuddly

fabric often used for dressing gowns, so your ancient housecoat might turn into Mrs Paddlequack (see page 53).

It is totally synthetic and thus washable, easy to work with and about the same price as towelling.

Allow about 7 mm seam allowance.

COTTONS

Cotton is an easy and relatively inexpensive material to use. Amongst the most useful cottons I have found are gingham, lining materials and T-shirt or sweatshirt material.

Because I am in the middle of making curtains for a new house, I have scraps of curtain lining all over the place. It proved to be an admirable fabric for rag doll bodies.

Most T-shirts and sweatshirts are pure cotton. The material is easy to work in but it is usually stretchy, so make sure you allow for this when cutting out the pattern pieces – you should see which way the fabric stretches and skip the seam allowance in that direction; this doesn't apply to basic patterns like dolls' bodies, but for any tight-fitting clothes, such as socks or tights.

Cotton doesn't fray significantly so you need only allow 5 mm for the seam allowance. It is washable but beware when you wash lining or any other glazed cotton – the surface glaze disappears with washing so the fabric becomes matt after a time.

FELT

Use a good quality felt for toymaking; the poorer ones are thin in patches, leading to leaking stuffing. Because felt doesn't fray at all, it is wonderful for small toys which are much better sewn together on the outside. The disadvantage with felt is that you cannot wash it – I imagine you can dry clean it although I have not experimented with this.

Choose the brightest coloured felts you can find; the dark ones tend to be lifeless and need a lot of surface decoration to overcome this.

OTHER MATERIALS

Very soft *leather* (suede, chamois, kid, etc.) can be used for toys; leather scraps are useful for accessories, shoes, facial details, harness etc.

Velvet, velveteen and velours are difficult to work with and I have not attempted it.

STUFFING

Modern polyester stuffing, which is advertised as clean, hygienic and safe, is much easier than the old-fashioned kapok. Polyester filling doesn't fly around the room, doesn't have twigs in it and doesn't get up your nose. It is available in large bags containing approximately 400 gm and one bag should fill four medium-sized toys.

Use foam chips to stuff a towelling toy if you foresee it ending up in the bath.

COTTONS, THREADS, ETC.

My sewing machine objected to thick pure cotton thread so I used Gütermann or Drima polyester thread for everything.

Use contrasting coloured thread for tacking – it's easier to see.

Darning wools are useful for animal noses and stranded embroidery silks are the most suitable for embroidering dolls' features. The silks come in six-strand skeins but you need only thread your needle with two or three strands at a time.

THINGS TO HOARD

Bits and pieces which you might throw away without a backward glance come into their own when you are making dolls' clothes and accessories. A friend of mine, Sevilla Hercolani, is a dress designer and showered me with wonderful 'rag bags' which were like an Aladdin's cave of scraps.

Here are some of the items I have found useful:

- ☐ scraps of material of all kinds
- ☐ old T-shirts and sweatshirts
- ☐ worn gloves, or other items, made from supple leather

- ☐ lengths of used but intact elastic
- ☐ buttons of all sorts, sizes and shapes
- ☐ zips from old clothes and cushions
- ☐ trimmings – e.g. cushion or curtain braid, lace, broderie anglaise, ribbon, fake flowers, sequins, feathers, net
- ☐ pipe cleaners

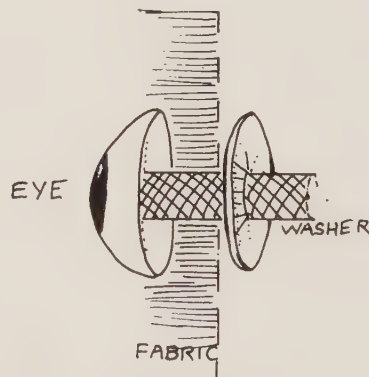
SAFETY

The British Standards Institution guidelines on 'Safety of Toys' are concerned with the safety of children under 36 months. The most relevant section of their latest edition is the following, which applies to the eyes for teddy bears and other cuddlies:

'3.2.2.2

Non-detachable components. In the case of toys for children under 36 months to which components made from glass, metal, wood or other non-pliable material are attached, these components shall either: be so embedded that the child cannot pull them out with his teeth or fingers; or be so fixed to the toy that they cannot become detached or loosened when they are submitted to . . . a force of 90 N when the largest accessible dimension is greater than 6 mm.'

The old-fashioned hook-in or button eyes are obvious dangers. Lock-in safety eyes are now available at most haberdashery shops and in department stores which have a toymaking section. They are fixed like this:



Always insert eyes before stuffing the toy. Make a small hole in the fabric with the Quik Unpik to put through the stalk of the eye. Snap washer and eye firmly together to lock, one hand on the washer, the other on the eye.

Other possible risks are bells and similar small hard objects which could cause a child to choke, also sharp items such as fish gut, pipe cleaners etc. I have used these in the book but if you intend to give the toys to a child under three years old, it would be wise to omit them.

Felt toys are not actually dangerous to babies or toddlers if eaten but it seems generally undesirable. To reduce the risk, firmly *sew*, rather than glue, any features made of felt, e.g. the cat's tongue (see page 71).

One mother I know suggests keeping an eye on shaggy cuddlies; bald patches may indicate that a child is sucking the fur which can be harmful to the lungs.

PREPARING PAPER PATTERNS

Read instructions carefully before starting. Trace patterns on to good quality tracing paper or greaseproof paper. If you want to make your patterns more permanent, transfer the designs to cardboard: cereal packets are ideal. To do this, trace the design on to paper, turn the paper over and scribble all over every line in pencil. Turn the paper right side up again and put it on top of the cardboard. With a sharp pencil, retrace the lines, thus pushing the carboned design on to the cardboard – just like copying maps at school.

Copy all sewing instructions and letters on to paper pattern pieces.

A simpler but more expensive option is to photocopy the relevant pages, cut out the pattern pieces and glue on to cardboard, then trim cardboard to size.

Unless you are using double-sided fabric (the same on both sides), remember to reverse the paper pattern on the fabric when you cut the second piece of a pair (e.g. side of elephant, ear, etc.).

Before you lay the pattern pieces on the fabric, check that the fabric is smooth and flat. If not, take five minutes to press it.

SEAM ALLOWANCES

Because of the difficulties involved in fitting large stencils on to a double page, only a few patterns have seam allowances included, most do not. Please note whether you have to add on a seam allowance. If you do, you can *either*:

- cut out the pattern pieces *without* the seam allowance. Pin the pattern pieces to the fabric leaving room between the pieces to add the seam allowance. Mark round the pattern (i.e. the seam lines) with chalk or marking pen. Cut the fabric 1 cm (or less depending on fabric used – see below) outside the seam line. The advantage of this method is that you have a marked seam line to sew on. *Or*
- when you trace the pattern, leave room round the pieces to draw in the seam allowance at this stage: this means that your paper pattern pieces will be marked with a seam line and a seam allowance 1 cm (or less) outside the seam line. I found it easier to add in the seam allowance in this way, where necessary, because then I couldn't forget the seam allowance when it came to cutting the fabric; the disadvantage is that you do not have a seam line to sew on. Seam allowances vary from fabric to fabric. As a rough guide, allow:
 - 3 to 4 mm for felt
 - 5 to 7 mm for fine, non-fraying cottons
 - 7 mm to 1 cm for fur fabricsSee page 8 for more details.

Rule of thumb: It is better to allow too much seam allowance than too little – you can always cut off the surplus.

BASIC SEWING TECHNIQUES

Pin, tack and then machine, or handsew, all pattern pieces.

I used a combination of my sewing machine and hand sewing to make most of the toys in this book. The exceptions are the felt toys – the little felt horse on page 104, the felt Christmas Tree decorations (page 102) and the goldfish and dolphins (page 108) – which are all hand sewn in blanket stitch.

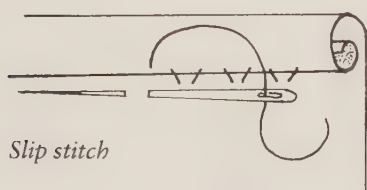
MACHINING

(This note is for beginners, not experienced seamstresses).

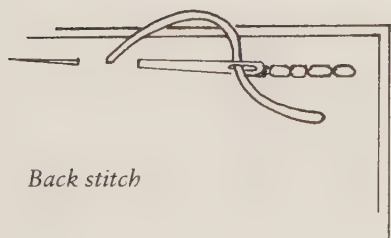
It helps immeasurably to read the instruction book that accompanies your machine. I used to finish off every seam by hand until I discovered the reverse button, which – at the flick of a switch – sews backwards, firmly securing every seam in sight. The manual should also give you useful information about stitch lengths and sewing cotton. Medium and small stitches were used for all the toys in this book: medium for straight seams, small for corners and short curves so that you keep the detail.

HAND SEWING

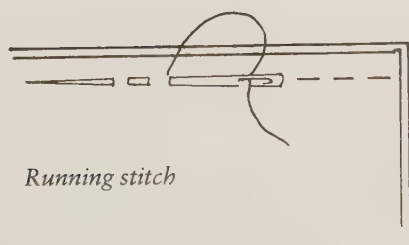
You can sew any or all of the toys by hand if you prefer. If you choose to hand sew seams, the best stitch is back stitch: other useful stitches include blanket, running (gathering), satin, feather, chain and ladder.



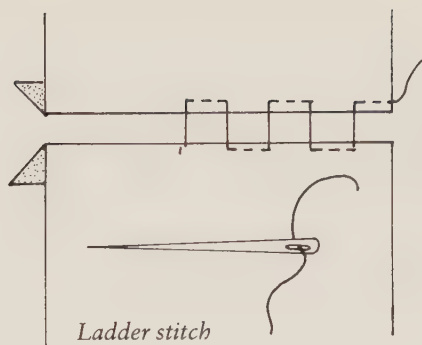
Slip stitch



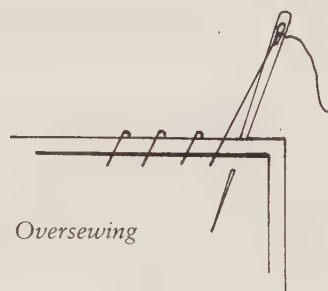
Back stitch



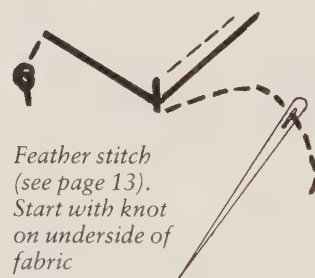
Running stitch



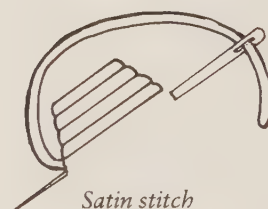
Ladder stitch



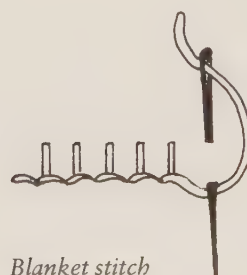
Oversewing



Feather stitch
(see page 13).
Start with knot
on underside of
fabric



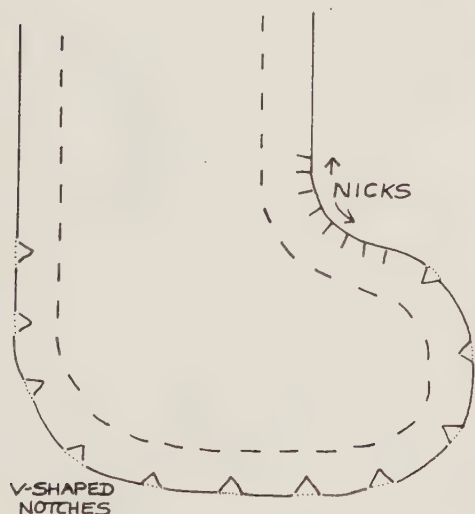
Satin stitch



Blanket stitch

CURVED SEAMS

When you turn a toy with curved seams to the right side, you must cut into the curved seams so that the seam will lie flat. Depending on the way the seam curves, you make a V-shaped notch or a little nick. If the finished seam curves in, e.g. the doll's heel, you make little Vs into the seam allowance to take out some of the excess material on the inside.



If the finished seam curves out, e.g. the front of the doll's ankle, you make a nick to allow the seam allowance to spread out.

In the same way, you will need to clip into corners so that you can satisfactorily turn the corner right side out.

I went to work on this with great enthusiasm and cut too deeply so that my notches and clips went into the seam and made a hole – this is not a good thing.

ENLARGING THE STENCIL

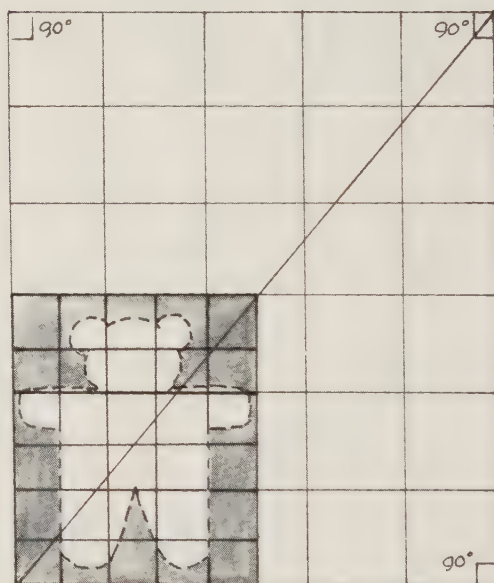
The toys photographed in this book were all made from the stencils given with the instructions and they are a good size for children to play with (grown-ups too). However you may wish to make a bigger toy (like the big bear on page 18). I have not experimented with every single toy but there

seems to be no reason why other patterns should not work just as well as the bear pattern when enlarged.

There are two ways of enlarging the basic patterns:

- Take it to an office equipment shop or large public library with a photocopier which enlarges – this will probably cost you between £1 and £2. If you know a helpful office manager, you may only have to pay the price of the photocopy – 10 to 20p. Or
- Use Rona's method:

Draw a rectangular (or square) frame round your pattern. Draw a diagonal line from bottom left to top right of the frame. By extending this diagonal upwards and the bottom horizontal to the right, you will be able to make a larger frame in exactly the same proportion as the original.

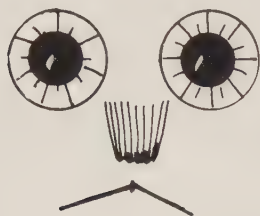


Repeat squares in larger frame

Divide the small frame into even sized rectangles or squares and then repeat the number on the larger frame. Fill in the larger rectangles or squares with exactly the same pattern lines as the smaller, until you have recreated the whole pattern.

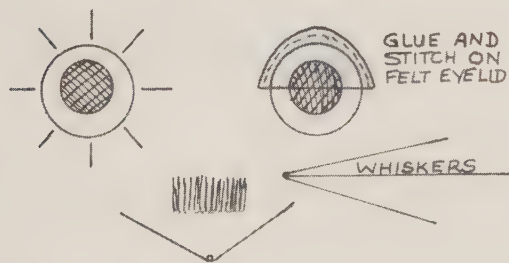
FACES

A stitch up or down, the colour and size of a pair of safety eyes, can make all the difference to a toy's face. Some of the faces on old teddy bears and dolls were at worst grim, at best charmless.



Cross face

Here are a few ideas to make your toy's face lovable.



Happy, interesting face

- ☐ eyes are better set too wide apart than too close together.
- ☐ every toy benefits from a wide, upturned mouth made from a big stitch caught in the middle to make the curve (i.e. a feather stitch: see page 11).
- ☐ a small colourful detail, such as the cat's red and pink tongue (see page 71), can bring instant life to a dull face.
- ☐ sew on eyelashes or whiskers – or both.
- ☐ to make soft, melting orbs – or to make too-small eyes bigger – cut a small circle of dark felt or

suede, 1 to 2 mm larger than the eye, and insert at the back of the eye. (See Seal, page 79.)

- ☐ if you can't find readymade eyes, see page 71 for details of how to make felt eyes.
- ☐ make felt eyelids for glass eyes to alter the shape; this is particularly appropriate for cats.

STUFFING

More is not necessarily better when stuffing these toys. Cuddly toys must not be hard and unyielding. The rag dolls need nice, bendy limbs so that they are easy to dress and undress. The little felt toys may split at seam junctions if great wads of stuffing are forced in.

Stuff toys with small amounts at a time so that you can see exactly what is happening and also avoid lumps forming. Having said all that, stuffing tends to go down after a little while, so don't skimp – firm but squashy is the ideal.

Whilst you stuff the toy, you also need to mould it into the right shape. If there seems to be a vast gulf between your toy and the one in the photo, it may well be that you simply need to mould and push your toy into shape. The only way to become expert at this is to practise, but it is not at all difficult. Stuffing always takes longer than you imagine, so leave plenty of time.



TEDDY BEARS

This bear pattern is very easy. It is also versatile: you can make a glove puppet from the same basic pattern as the honey bear, a much bigger bear like the blue bear or a bear bag. You could use different colours of fur fabric to make a whole family of bears. It's a curious thing about bears – they are meant for children but grown-ups never lose their attachment to teddies. Tired friends in need of comfort sit on my sofa cuddling the bears I made for this book; the honey bear is a particular favourite. These bears cost well under £5 each to make, even if you have to buy everything new, such as a full bag of stuffing. (Like all the toys in this book, the cost is less as you gather more materials around you. The glove puppet was made of scraps left over from bigger toys.)

HONEY BEAR

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm fur fabric
- ☐ 150 gm stuffing
- ☐ 1 pair 15 mm safety eyes
- ☐ Darning or double knitting wool for nose
- ☐ At least 60 cm ribbon for bow
- ☐ Sewing thread – same colour as fur fabric
- ☐ Tacking cotton

PREPARATION

Trace pattern pieces, leaving room to add the 7 mm to 1 cm seam allowance on to each pattern piece (see page 10).

Write the cutting and sewing instructions and letters – e.g. A, B – on each piece.

Pin pattern to wrong side of fabric with fur lying in direction of arrows.

With the ear and cheek patterns, cut the

first one, then *reverse* the paper pieces and cut the pair, making certain the fur will lie in the corresponding way to the first piece.

Cut out each piece. *Make sure not to cut* between the legs of the main body pieces until after stitching. If you want longer paws or floppier ears, cut them a bit larger.

MAKING UP

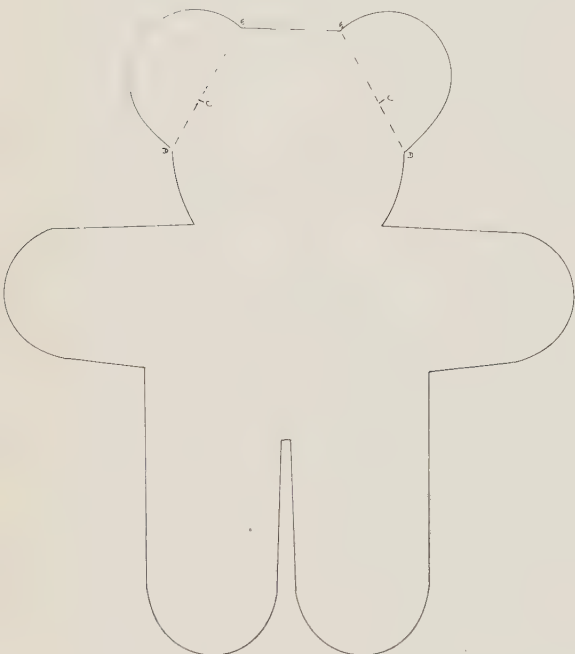
Remember that all pieces should be joined with right sides together. It really is worthwhile pinning and then tacking the pieces before you machine or firmly hand stitch together. Start off by joining cheek pieces together from A to B. Finish stitching on point B.

Join centre head section to cheek pieces from C to C through B. It is easiest to do it in two stages: sew from C to B on one side, finish off, then sew the second C to B. Make certain that all the seams lie flat.

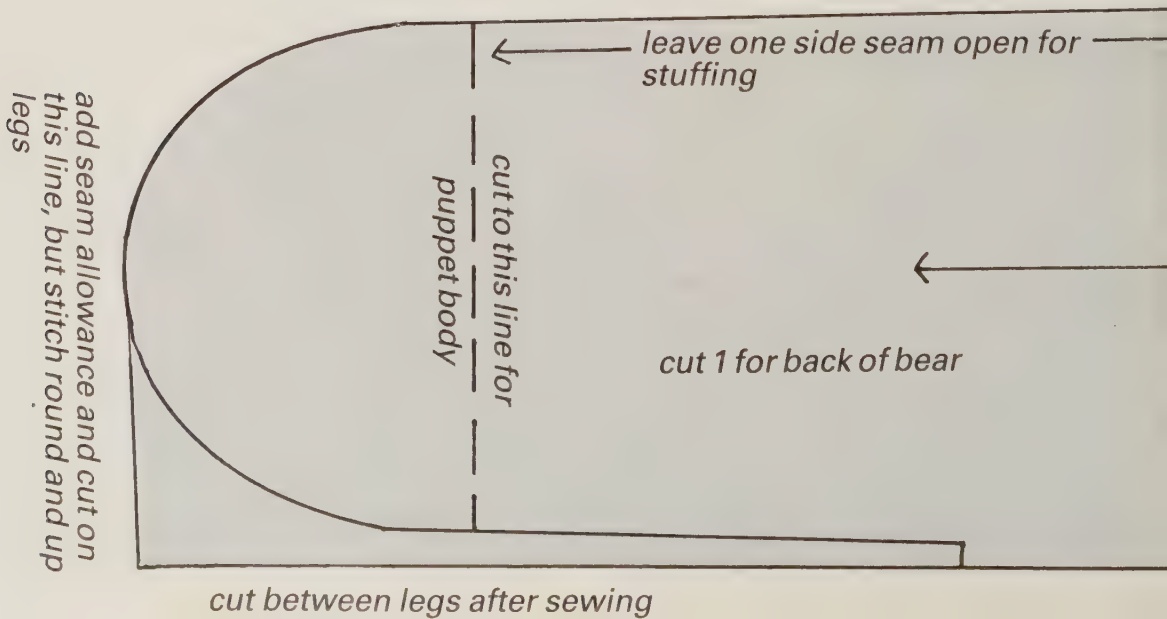
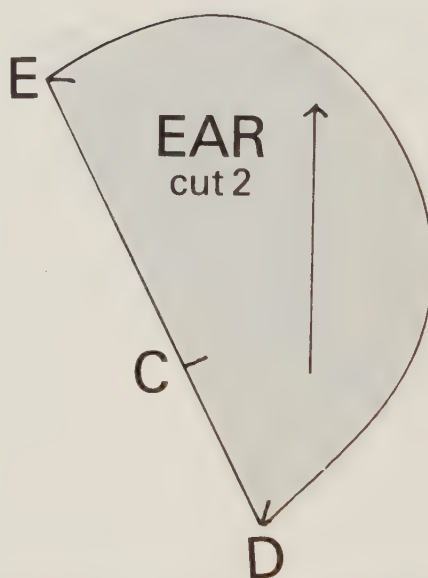
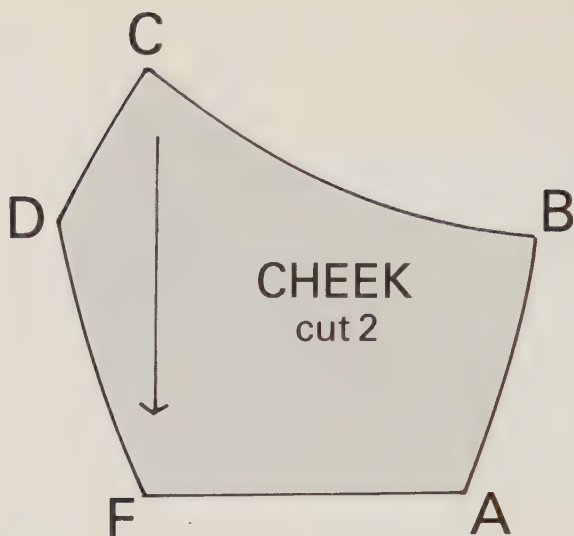
TEDDY BEAR

(Honey Bear size)

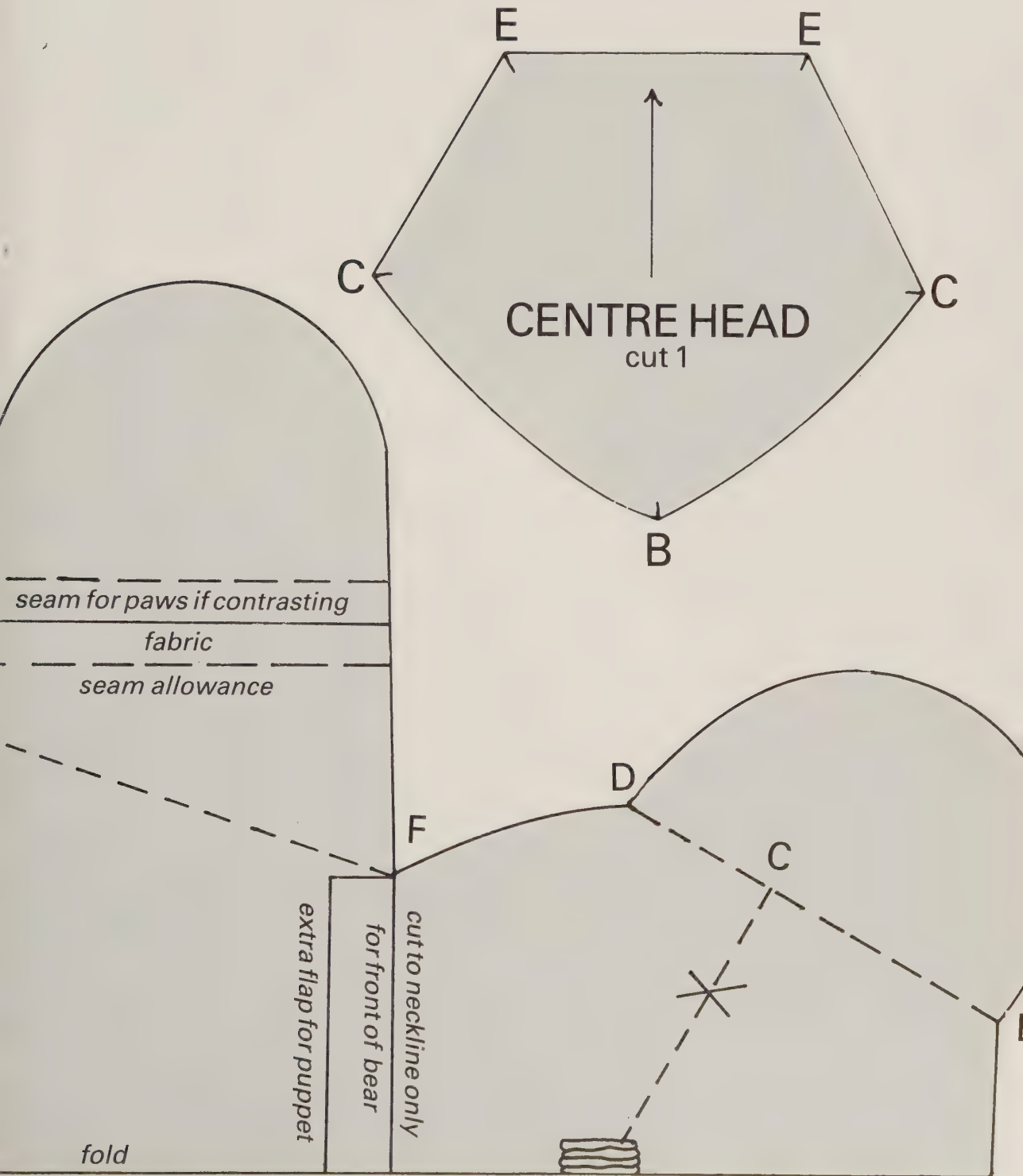
Add 7mm seam allowance



The complete teddy outline should look like this. Mark the same letters on each half



Arrows indicate direction of fur



Join ear sections to front head shape from D to E through C.

Join front head to front body from F to F and finish off stitching firmly at each point.

Make the nose by sewing several satin stitches (see page 11) in the position shown. Sew mouth with double feather stitch (see page 11), caught in the middle to make him smile or look serious.

It is easiest to fix the safety eyes into position at this stage.

Decide where on the seam they will look best, undo a stitch with the Quik Unpik, push the stem of the eyes through, then lock them in place with the metal disc on the wrong side of the fabric.

Join back bear to front bear all round outer edge *except the opening for the stuffing*. Finish off stitching at both points F, that is where head meets body on either side, and then start stitching again. This will help enormously when you clip the seam allowance and turn the bear right side out.

Make a single cut between the legs to separate; trim seams and clip into corners at neck, ears, underarm and between legs and clip curves (see page 12). Be careful not to cut through to machining.

Turn through to right side and pull into shape.

On the outside, machine or hand stitch back and front of bear together across each ear from D to E along seam line, so that the ears are separate from the face and don't get stuffed.

Stuff each arm lightly and then machine or hand stitch back and front together between F and the underarm.

Stuff the rest of the bear, pushing the stuffing well into corners. Sew up the opening by hand in ladder stitch when stuffing is completed.

Ease out fur caught in seams, with a wire comb or darning needle. Tie bow round neck to finish.

BIG BEAR

See page 6 for photo

I took the Teddy Bear pattern to a copy centre and asked them to enlarge it by 50%. I made the bear in exactly the same way with one addition – I seamed the legs in the same way as the arms are seamed on the Honey Bear; this means that the big bear will sit happily in a chair. He is very impressive and despite the extra cost of the photocopy, he is still extremely good value. If you are far from a photocopier, you could enlarge the pattern yourself (see page 12). You will need 50 cm fur fabric; one pair 17 mm safety eyes and about 300 gm stuffing.

BEAR BAG

I don't know exactly when the vogue for animal bags hit the population but they are incredibly popular. I made this one using the basic bear pattern which I had enlarged to make the big bear. The zip lies across the back of his neck and the only difference to the pattern is that the back of the bear becomes two pieces instead of one.



You can either wear the bear round your waist on a stretchy belt, or sling it over your shoulder on a longer, buckled belt. The belt should be made of some fabric light enough to be sewn into the bear's paws – leather, unless it is very soft, would be too heavy.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm fur fabric
- ☐ 2 rectangles of tough cotton (such as lining cotton) measuring 13 cm by 18 cm and 13 cm by 16.5 cm
- ☐ 10 cm zip preferably with closed end

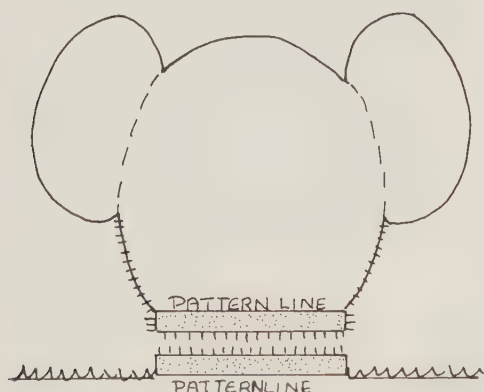


- Pair of safety eyes 17 mm in diameter
- About 100 gm stuffing
- Matching cotton and tacking cotton
- Stretchy webbing belt with clasp or buckled belt, long enough to make a shoulder strap for your child.

PREPARATION AND MAKING UP

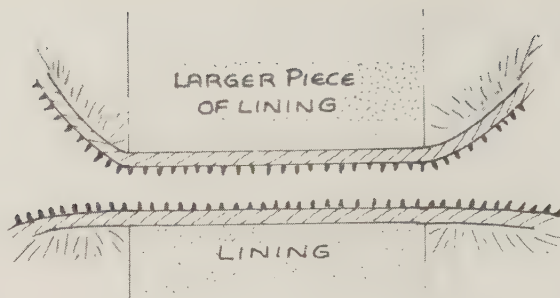
Trace the pattern for the Teddy Bear (pages 17–18) and enlarge it; or use the pattern for the big bear if you already have it. Cut the front as detailed in the pattern for the Honey Bear, two ears, two cheeks, one centre head, and one body. Sew these together as in the basic pattern, with all the features in place.

Cut the whole pattern in two at the neck to make the back, or trace it in two pieces – the body and the head. Cut out the back in fur fabric, adding on 1 cm seam allowance to each piece at the neck.



Allow extra seam allowance at top of body and bottom of head

Lay the two pieces on your work top, wrong side up. Turn the seam allowance back and tack it down. Lay the lining fabric rectangles on top of the fur fabric with the short edges along the neck line. Use the longer rectangle for the head piece. Turn the seam allowance under so that the raw edges are turned in to meet the raw edges of the fur fabric. Make certain that the lining comes right up to the neckline of the fur fabric on both pieces. If you don't, you will find the fur keeps getting caught in the zip.



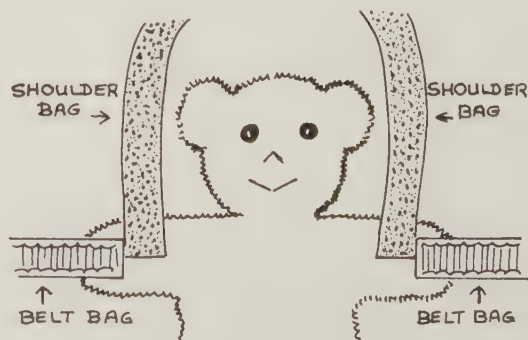
Shaded areas to each side are the wrong side of fur fabric

Tack the lining pieces down on to the fur fabric along the neck line each side.

Lay the head and body edge to edge so that it looks like a whole bear with a gap of about 5 mm between the two pieces. Put the zip in so that the teeth are exposed along this line. The handle for the zip will be face down, because you are working inside out. Pin, tack and machine the zip in. Finish off with a row of machining about 2.5 cm long at each end of the zip, through all thicknesses.

Lay the bear bag flat and pull the top longer rectangle of lining down to lie on top of the other – they should now match in size. Machine the lining round the open sides so that you make the bag; you may need to fiddle a little at the top where it meets the zip, possibly hand sewing through all the thicknesses to make sure it is secure.

Cut the belt in two pieces and put one end of each in a paw seam – tuck the rest of each belt piece inside the bear's body, so that they will appear on the outside of the bear bag. If you are making a belt bear bag, insert the pieces into the ends of the bear's paw, if you are making a shoulder bag, put them in over his wrists:





Right sides together, sew the back head to the front as for the basic Honey Bear pattern and sew round the rest of the bear, leaving a space up the side of one leg open for stuffing. Cut and clip the seams into the corners and round the curves.

Turn the bear right side out and stuff him lightly but firmly.

If you wish to joint his arms and legs, oversew them by machine or hand through all thicknesses.

Fill the zippered bag with all sorts of delightful and interesting items. If the fur gets caught in the zip, just snip it back with a small pair of scissors.

I thought this bear looked rather a bohemian,

South of France sort of bear, who might wear a faded blue T-shirt to match his eyes, so I made him one. The pattern is simply the pattern of the bear's body without seam allowances, cut out with pinking shears from an old T-shirt and machined on the outside up the side seams and across the shoulders. I added the red tennis racquet motif because it looked good.

GLOVE PUPPET

Sam Talhi's mother Rosamund put in a special request for a glove puppet pattern. Sam had come back from school one day asking her to make one with such fervour that she went to look for a book with simple instructions. She couldn't find one and asked me if I could help. This enormously engaging bear with his Robin Day bow and leather satchel is the result.



RAG DOLLS

Using this one basic pattern, you can make lots of different dolls, from American footballers to more traditional dolls.

Rag dolls were originally just that – made out of old rags and scraps of left-over material; even the stuffing was shredded rags. Today there is still no need to buy very much to make your rag doll: I refused to go on shopping expeditions especially for one doll so, apart from the synthetic stuffing, the dolls and all their clothes are made of things I had round the house. The first time I made the actual doll, it took me about three hours – because I didn't read the pattern properly – now it takes less than two hours.

BASIC RAG DOLL PATTERN

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm skin-coloured cotton fabric, 115 cm wide
- ☐ 250 gm stuffing
- ☐ Scraps of felt for eyes
- ☐ Pink embroidery silk for nose and mouth
- ☐ Matching cotton for sewing, contrasting cotton for tacking
- ☐ 50 gm chunky knit wool for hair (skein of tapestry wool is ideal)
- ☐ Glue

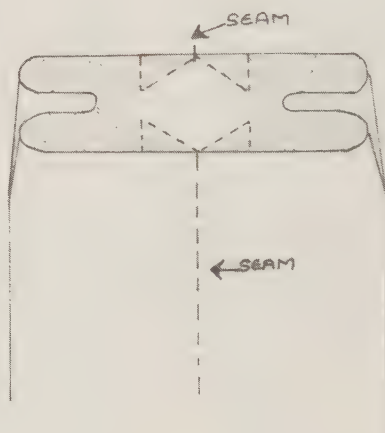
PREPARATION

Trace off the doll pattern pieces (pages 28–30) separately and draw in all the necessary markings. 5 mm seams are allowed on all pieces. Join fabric with right sides facing. Cut all pieces with the straight grain of the fabric in the direction shown on the patterns. (Note that the doll's body is cut on the bias.)

MAKING UP

Legs Join leg shapes in pairs round the edges leaving the top edge open, clip seams on curves. Turn right side out and stuff firmly up to 2.5 cm from top edge; don't be tempted to fill further, you need the slack. Pin the top edges of each leg

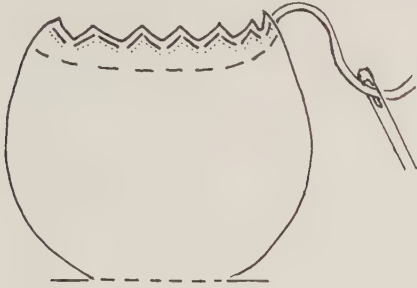
together so that the two seams lie in the centre of each leg at back and front. Make a small inverted pleat at each side and tack the top edges together.



Face and body Mark in with tiny chalk marks or tailor tack the facial features on the right side of one piece. Mark the neck darts on the wrong side of each piece and then fold the fabric from corner to corner of the dart and stitch on the curved line.

Join the body round the edges leaving the top and lower edges open. Turn right side out, turn in lower edges of body 1 cm and tack. Insert about 1 cm of the top of each leg between the body pieces and machine or hand stitch into

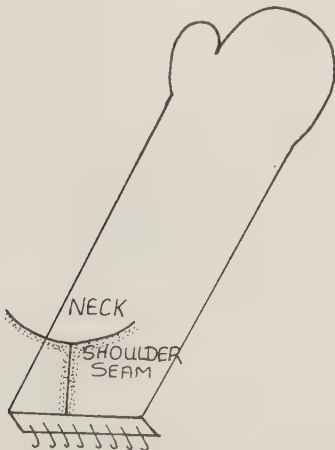
place through all thicknesses. Stuff body and then head firmly, pushing the stuffing into the corners with a chopstick or something similar (see page 13). Turn raw edges in 1 cm on top of head and tack. Run a strong double gathering thread round and then pull it up to draw edges together as tightly as possible. Fasten off.



Use running stitch in double cotton to gather top of head

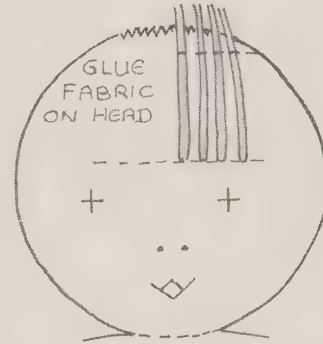
Arms Join arm shapes in pairs round the edges leaving the top edge open. Clip round curves, especially into the corner between thumb and hand. Turn right side out and stuff firmly to within 2.5 cm of top edge. Turn in top raw edges 1 cm and bring seams together in the middle and make a small inverted pleat each side (like the legs).

Oversew top edges of each arm together, catching pleats into place at the top and then sew arms securely to shoulders at position shown on pattern. It is neatest to sew the arms from underneath; this also gives her a little bit of a shoulder.



Oversew arm from underneath

Hair For the fringe: cut 14 strands of wool 20 cm long, fold in half and lay with the cut edges to the back of the head, the folds falling down to her face. The fold should be on the fringe line. Catch each fold down on to the forehead with a small stitch in matching cotton.



Secure the ends at the back with a row of stitching and glue if necessary. For the remaining hair – cut the rest of the wool into equal lengths of about 38 cm. (I bought tapestry wool in 50 gm skeins: this was very easy because all I had to do for the remaining hair was slit the skein at either end.) Spread glue on the doll's head from the top of the fringe backwards, down the sides and back; don't spread it too far down the sides and back because you may not want the hair to stick that far down. Place the skein on the doll's head, hanging down evenly on either side. Make sure that it is lying across the back of the head as well (see the picture of the Fergie doll). Using a large needle threaded with double cotton the colour of the hair, stitch it firmly into place using backstitch. Tie loose ends into bunches with ribbon. Trim the ends if you wish.

Neck To hold the head firmly and stop the neck from stretching, thread a medium to large needle with a long piece of flesh coloured cotton and double it. Push the needle in at one side of the neck, and make two small back stitches. Wind the cotton round the neck at least twice, ending up by the seam on the other side of the neck. Finish off with small back stitches.

Eyes Cut two circles of felt 1 cm in diameter and glue in position shown. Stitch securely if this doll is for a small child.



Mouth Use two strands of stranded pink embroidery thread to work this. Consult the stitch diagrams on page 00. The mouth is two large feather stitches – fasten the threads on and off under the hair line so that there are no loose ends showing.

Cheeks To colour the cheeks put a little lipstick on to the tip of your finger and lightly rub in the position marked on the pattern. Or dot the lipstick straight on to the face. It dries firmly after a while. (Practise on a spare piece of fabric first.)

Nose The easiest way to make her nose is to apply two small dots of pink lipstick; alternatively you can sew it on in pink embroidery silk using two French knots or tiny cross stitches.

FERGIE DOLL

This charming doll with her mane of red hair and blue eyes was inspired by the Duchess of York and is affectionately known as the Fergie Doll. Strangely enough, she is the great pin-up of an extremely macho small boy, Rory Edgerton, aged 5, who roars around the New Forest. Given a choice of any of the toys in this book for his birthday present, Rory demanded the ‘beautiful girl’.

I gave her different shoes so that you can see how easy it is to ring the changes from the one basic shoe pattern.

FERGIE’S DRESS

This enchanting dress takes time and you may gnash your teeth and roar with exasperation if you try to make it in a hurry. It is worth the time and trouble because it looks so wonderful but I think you should allow a long afternoon to make it.

I used some Viyella material left over from a grown-up dress and the braid from some cushions to trim it. The buttons down the back come from an old woolly; I used them because I couldn’t find any poppers in the house and I was determined not to make a shopping trip especially for this dress.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm fabric, 90 cm wide
- ☐ Shirring elastic
- ☐ 3 buttons, poppers or press studs
- ☐ Cottons for sewing, contrasting cotton for tacking
- ☐ Braid, etc. for trimming

MAKING UP

Trace pattern (page 31–32) on to tracing paper and note sewing instructions.

Join front and back bodice together at the shoulder. Use the other two pieces to make another bodice exactly the same for the lining, but machine side seams together.

Gather top edge of each sleeve where indicated on pattern and tack, pulling up gathers to fit.

Insert sleeves into bodice. This is a real fiddle because the dress is so small; I found the easiest way was to start pinning at the centre. That gives you something to work from. Tack both sleeves in and then machine or hand stitch. Neaten raw edges by oversewing if you wish. Clip the corners between the sleeves and the side seams.

Make a small hem on the lower edge of each sleeve and gather either by using shirring elastic or by making a deeper seam and inserting narrow elastic.

Join lining to main bodice right sides together along back centre edges and neckline. Clip seams and turn through to right side. Press. Turn under raw edges of lining at armhole to neaten and slip stitch into place.

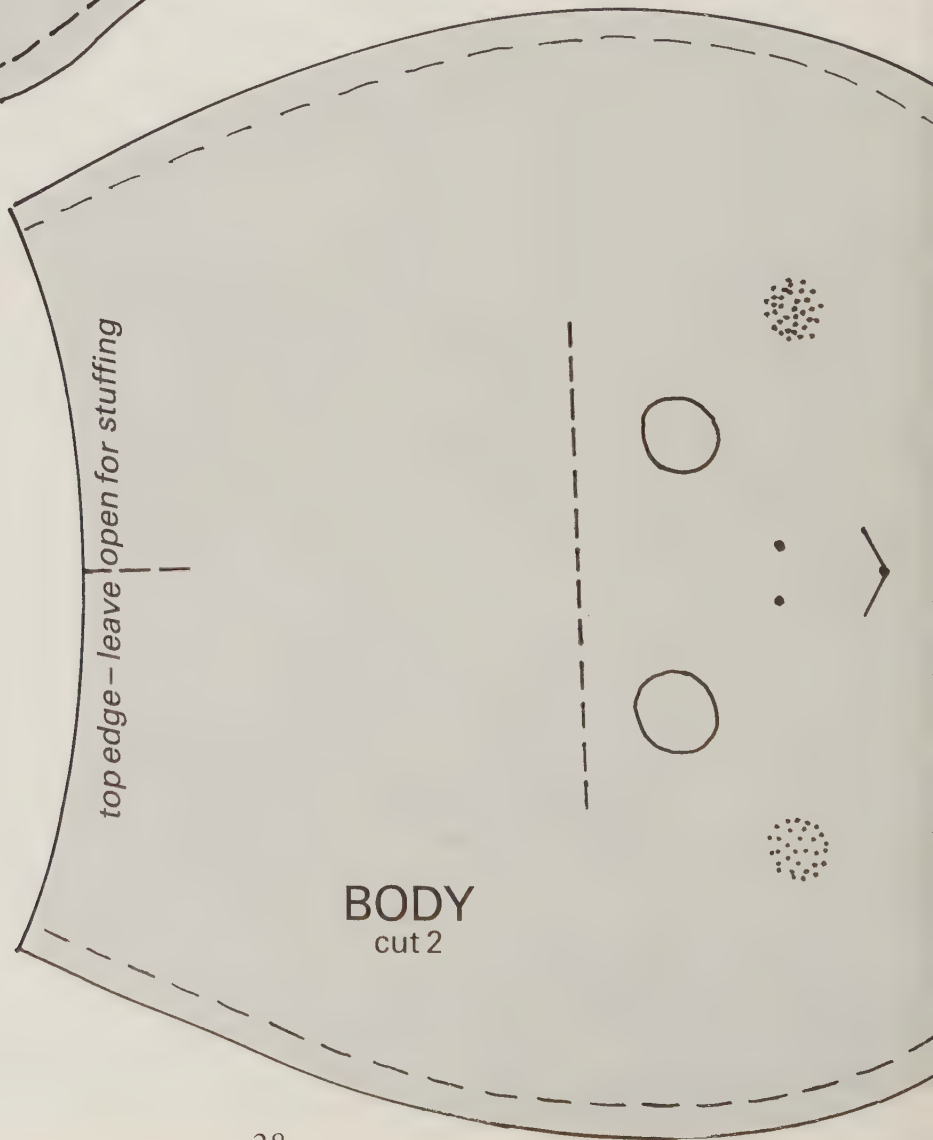
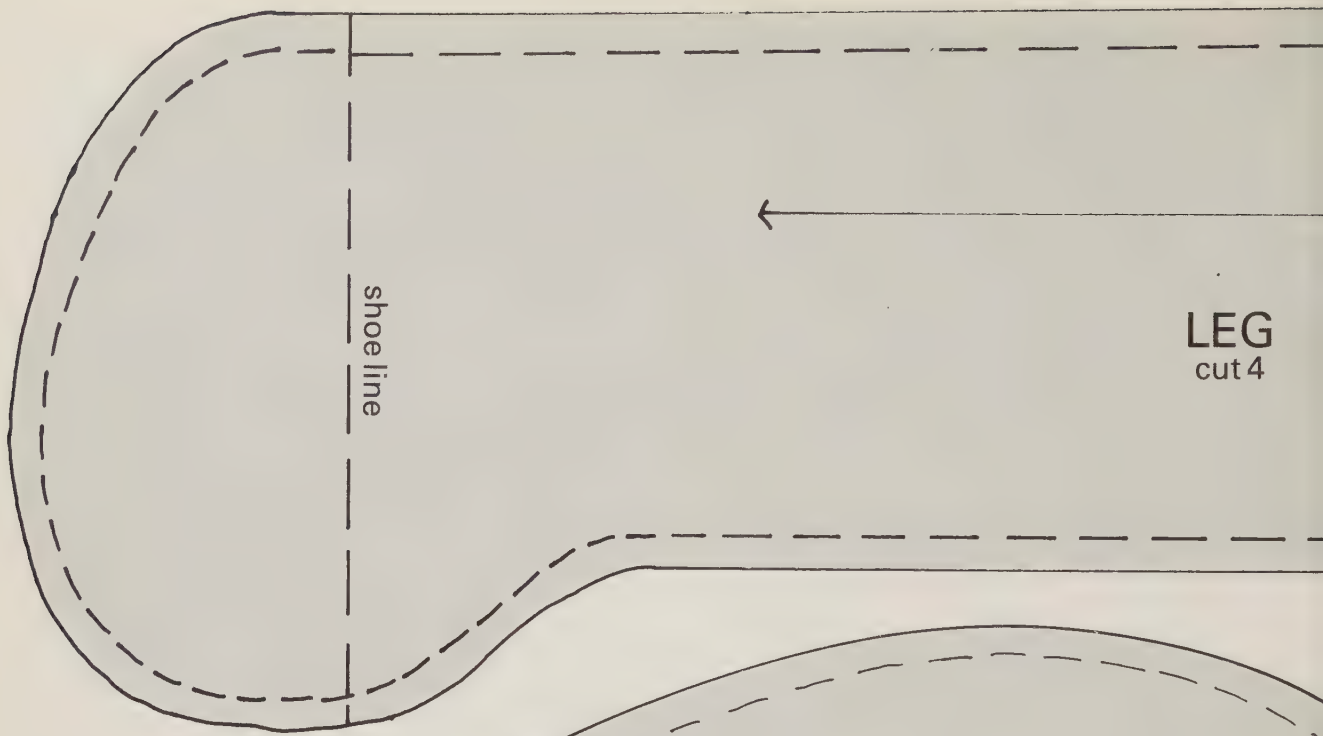
Sew back seam on skirt to within 6 cm of upper edge. Gather top edge to fit bodice and sew to outer edge of bodice only. Turn in raw edges on back seam to neaten.

Turn under bodice lining along lower edge and hem into place over gathered edge of skirt.

Trim and hem the lower edge of her skirt.

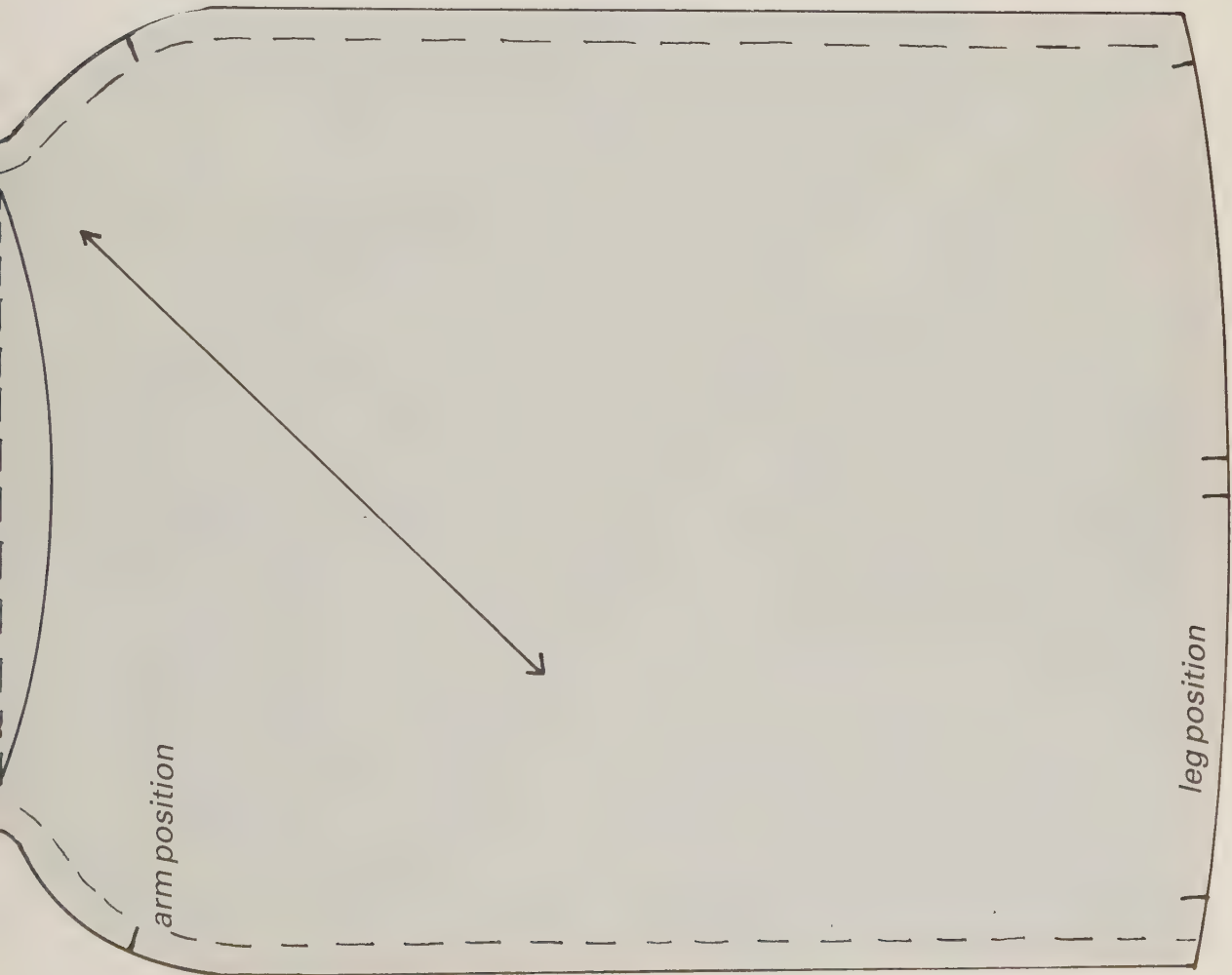
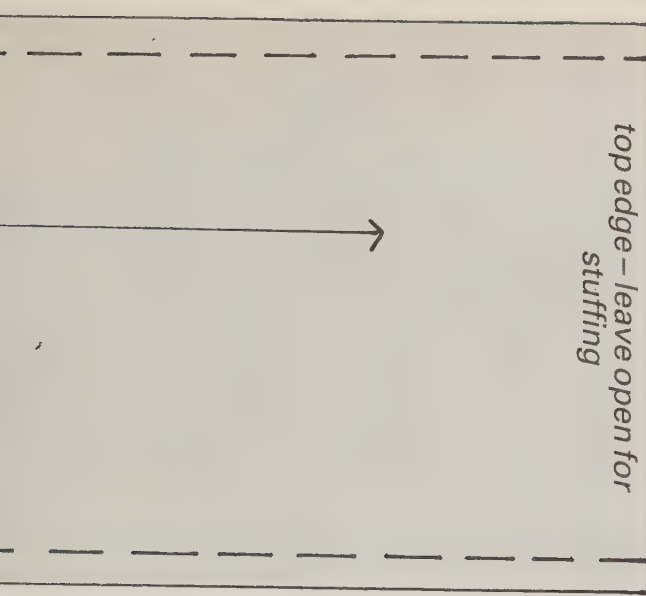
Sew buttons or press studs down back to finish.

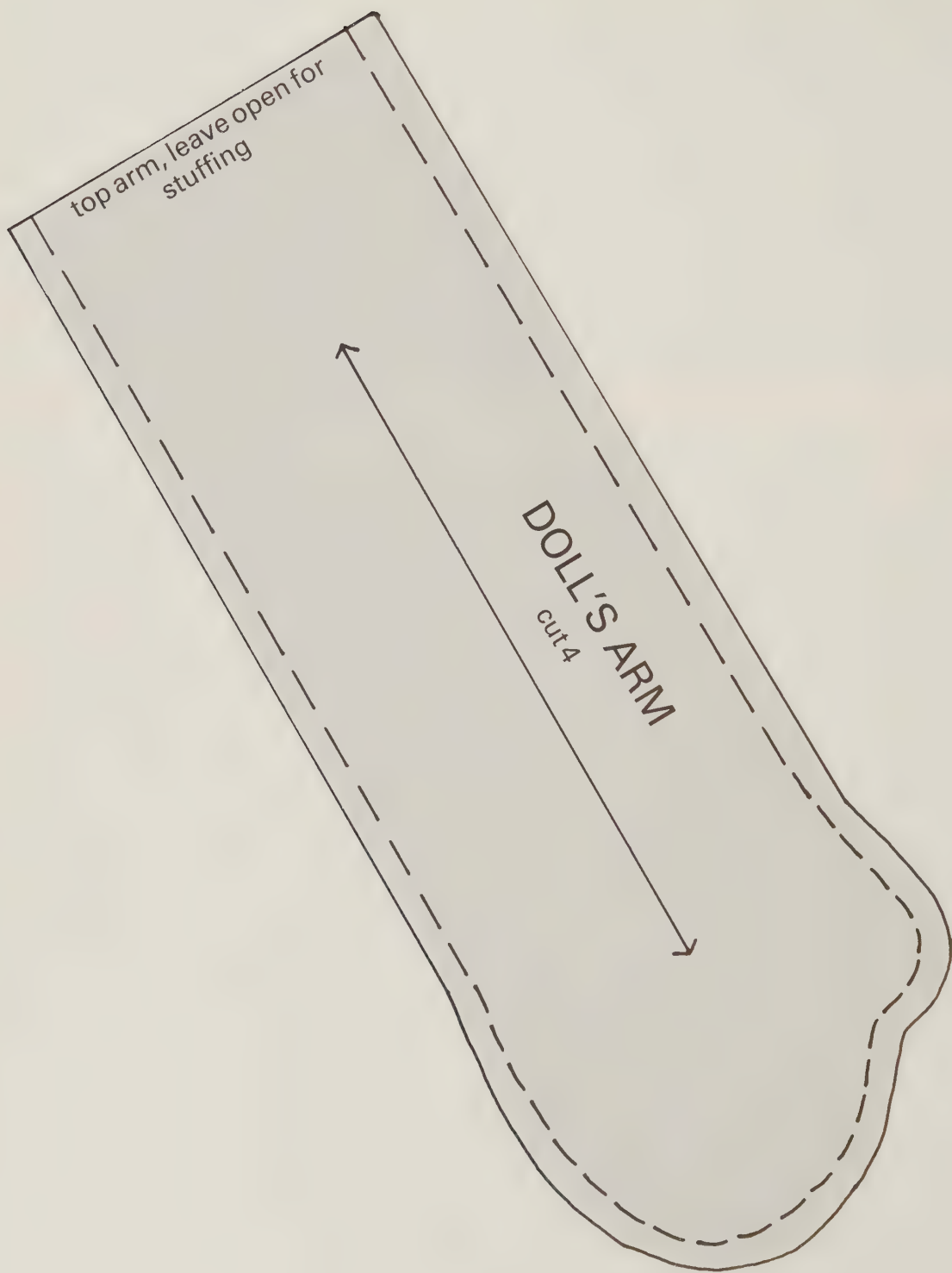
Her sash is a strip of fabric about 5 cm wide and as long as you have fabric – mine was about



RAG DOLL

Arm pattern on page 30
5 mm seams included

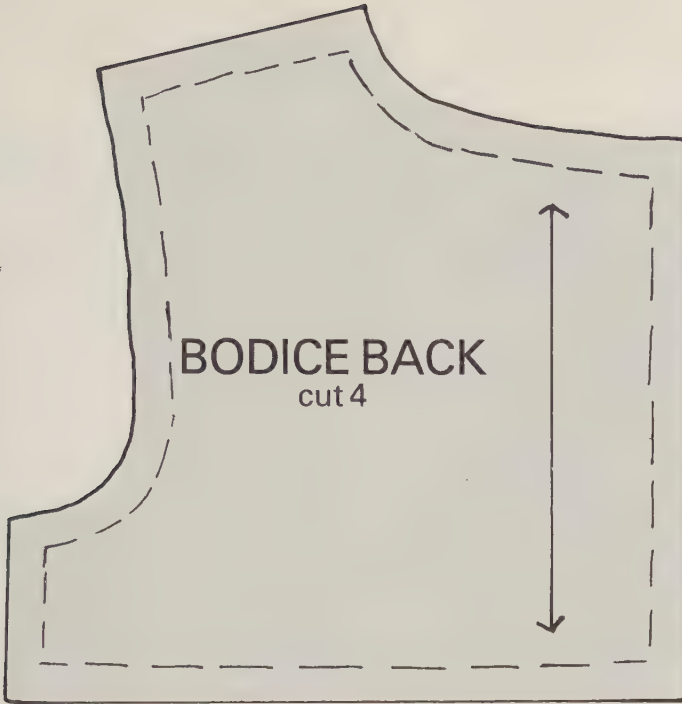




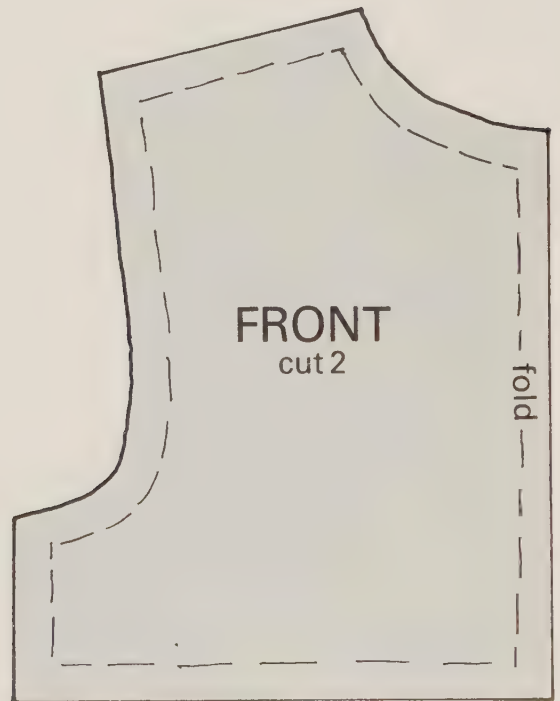
FERGIE'S DRESS

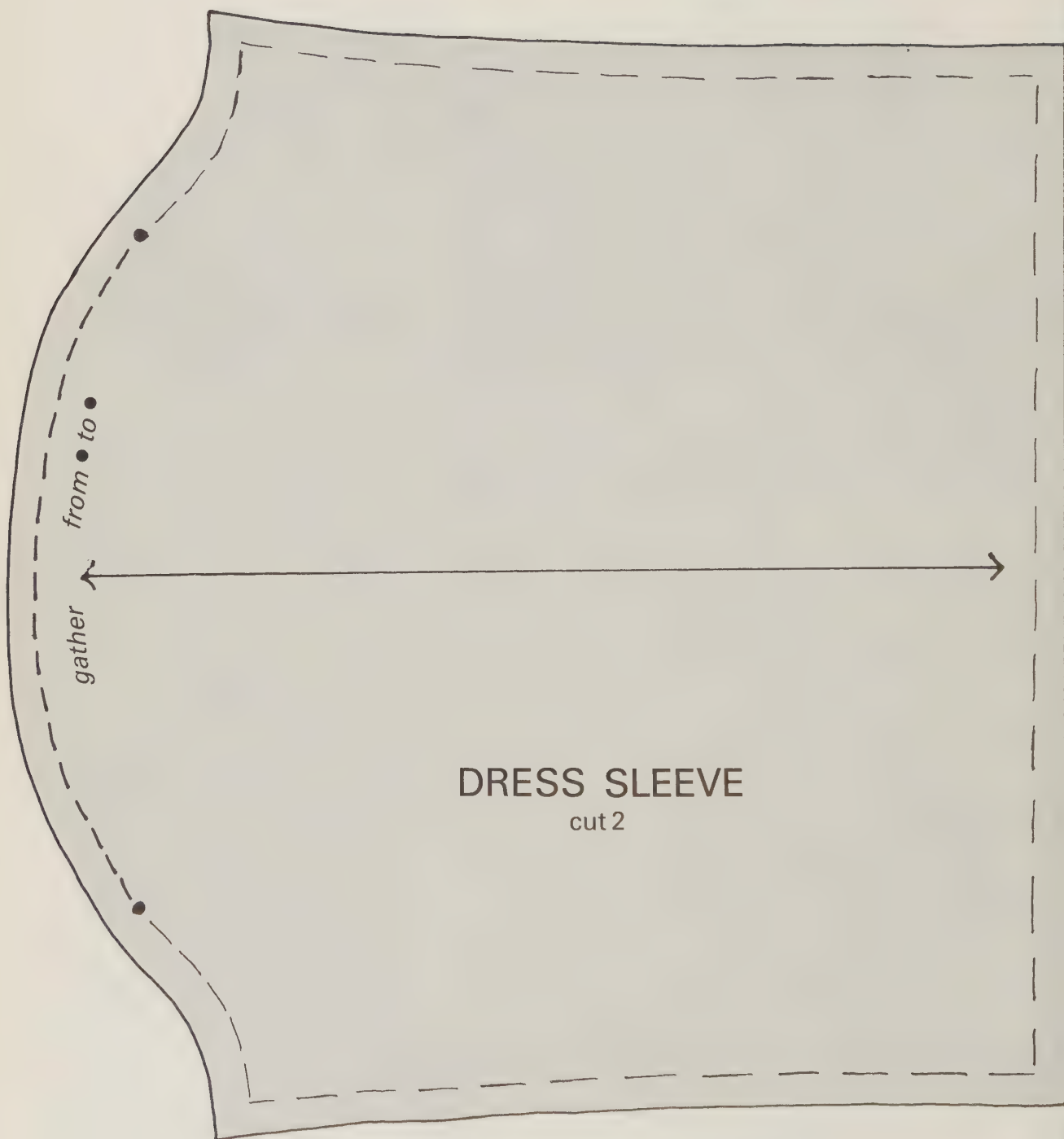
5mm seams included

Sleeve on page 32



SKIRT
cut a rectangle 25cm by 90cm





50 cm – seamed, turned inside out and trimmed with braid. I stitched it down at either side so that it would not immediately be lost.

If you want to sew on a ruff collar as I have done, take a strip of material 5 cm wide and three times the neck measurement of the dress. With right sides together, machine up one end and the length of the fabric, then turn right side out. Press. Pin to neck in pleats. Finish band by turning in end. Tack band in position, and machine or hand stitch firmly.

SOCKS

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Scraps of white (or coloured) T-shirt material
- ☐ Cotton to match
- ☐ Very narrow, or shirring, elastic

MAKING UP

Use the doll leg pattern. You can make ankle socks, knee socks or stockings depending on where you cut the top of the fabric. Allow an extra 1 cm because each sock or stocking is held up with narrow elastic inserted in the turnover at the top.

Place the pattern on the fabric with the weave of the fabric running up and down so that the stretch runs from side to side. Cut the fabric on the scant side – the sock has to be stretched over the foot and leg so that it fits well.

With right sides together, machine or hand stitch the seam leaving a good 5 mm seam allowance, either with small straight stitch or zigzag stitch.

Nick curves and then turn right side out.

Turn over the top and use running stitch to make a channel for narrow elastic. Thread elastic through using small safety pin.

Tack the ends of the elastic together, try socks for size and then stitch firmly.

See also instructions for knitted socks on page 41.

SLIPPER SHOES

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Scraps of felt or stretchy towelling material
- ☐ Matching cotton and ribbon or more scraps for decoration.

MAKING UP

Use leg pattern of rag doll and cut four pieces along the line marked 'shoe line'. Join in pairs to make up shoes. If you are using felt, machine or hand stitch round the outside on the right side of the material; if you are using towelling or similar material, sew on the wrong side of the material and then turn right side out.

Stay stitch along the top edge to neaten, either by machine or hand – you can use a decorative stitch in a contrasting colour if you feel energetic.

If you use towelling, which stretches to the shape of the foot and so keeps the shoe on, hand sew the seams, make a tiny bow for decoration and sew it firmly on to her toes.

If you use felt (as I have in the photograph), make a bar out of doubled up felt, about 7.5 cm long by 2 cm wide, fold in half lengthways and stick together with glue. When it has dried, put the shoe on the doll's foot and position the bar so it looks realistic, then sew firmly in place.

Decorate with a ribbon bow, felt flower, small button or whatever takes your fancy.

NECKLACE

This pearl necklace is made from pearl beads bought in the local haberdashery store. They come in packets costing about 55p and seem to be widely available. My neighbour Rebecca Lawrence, aged 16 and an authority on dolls' accessories, threaded them on shirring elastic which is stretchy enough to pull over the doll's head so that you don't need a clasp. The only difficulty was persuading the elastic through the eye of a needle small enough to fit through the hole in the beads; it is a good idea to try out the needle for size before you start pushing the needle through the beads.

SUNSHINE SUSIE

Susie is Jessica Cran's favourite doll. Jessica is 3 and she made straight for Susie in a room crowded with toys and played with her all morning while her mother and I played with the word processor.

The pattern is the basic Rag Doll pattern, but she has melting brown eyes made of tiny scraps of suede and her hair is braided and beaded and ribboned into eight plaits which stick out from her head. The sundress is just one length of material, with elastic at the top and waist.

SUNDRESS

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 35 × 55 cm rectangle cotton material
- ☐ 50 cm narrow elastic
- ☐ Coloured cotton; contrasting cotton for tacking

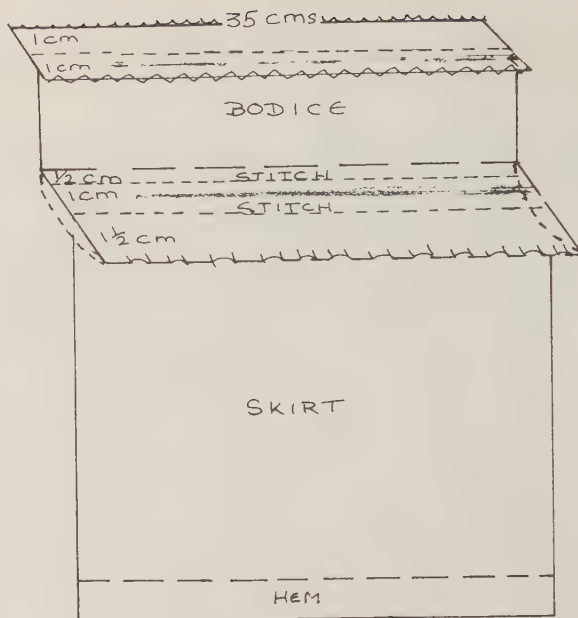
The 35 cm measurement is the length from top to bottom.

MAKING UP

Turn the top over 2 cm on the wrong side. Machine stitch in zigzag or back stitch by hand.

Leaving a band of about 1 cm at the top which forms a frill, run another line of sewing, straight stitch this time, above the lower line, to form a channel for the elastic.

Lay the material flat again and measure 3 cm below the second line of sewing. Mark this line (the third one). Measure another line, that is the fourth, 3 cm below that. Leaving this band on top, tuck up exactly the same amount of material (3 cm) underneath to meet the third line. You should have a pocket or fold of material running along the width of the fabric, which is 3 cm deep.



Insert elastic in the two shaded areas

Stitch along the top line of this pocket (the third line), then stitch again 1 cm down to form a channel for the elasticated waist. The rest of the pocket forms the frill at the waist, running underneath the elastic. Seam straight down the side *but do not seam over the channels where you will put elastic at top and waist.*

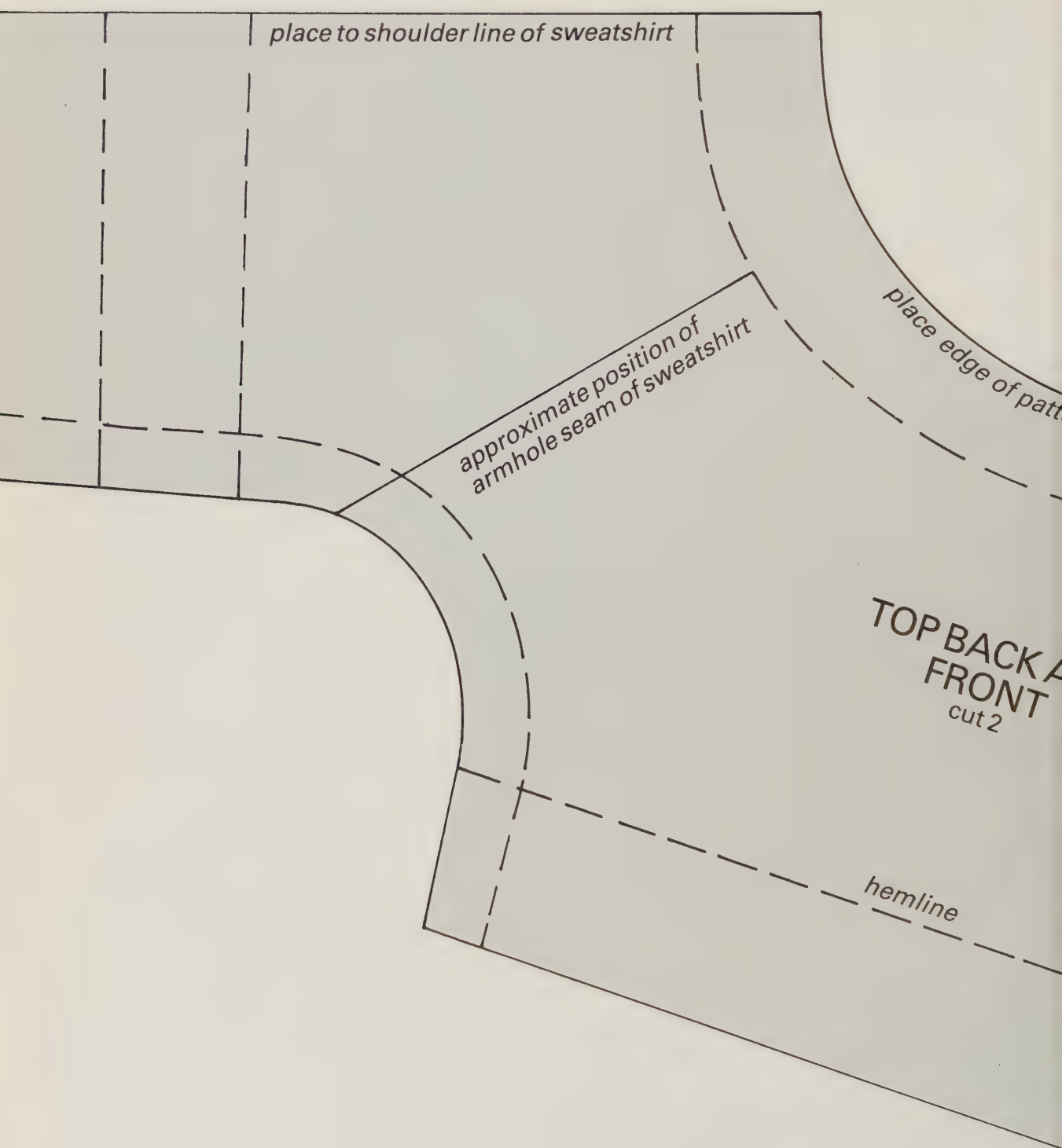
Run narrow elastic through those channels using a safety pin to pull the elastic through; tack the ends together, fit on the doll, then firmly sew the ends and trim.

Finish the sundress by machining or hand stitching the hem where you wish.

NECKLACE, BRACELET AND BEADS

I used an old necklace of mine and a few extra beads from the Hobby Horse to make her necklace and bracelet and for her hair. The necklace and bracelet are threaded on shirring elastic with the ends knotted loosely enough to pull over her head and wrist so that you do not need a clasp. Her earrings are two small brass curtain rings sewn tightly under her hair.

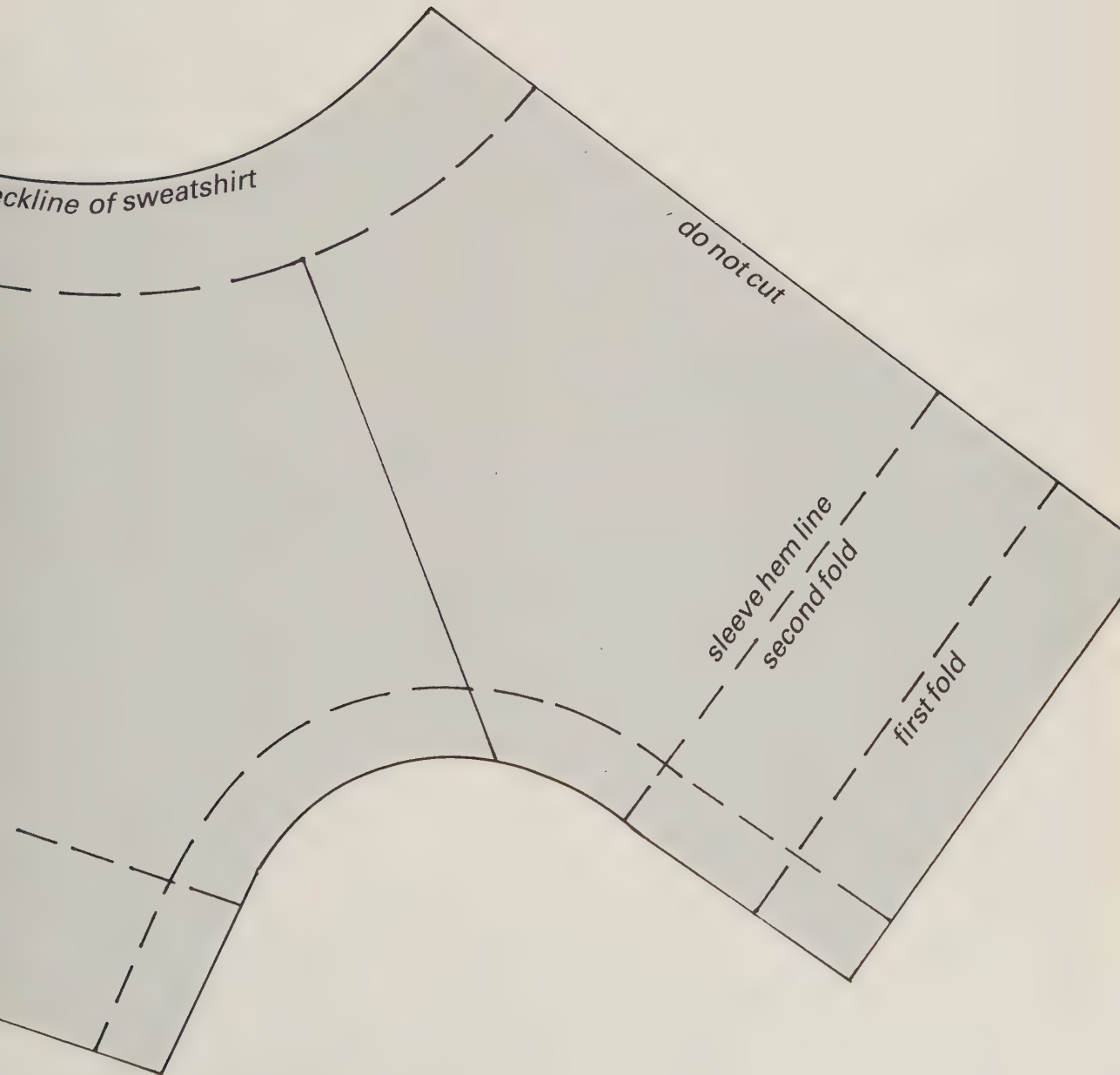




Yokes on page 40, trousers on page 49

JOGGING DOLL TRACKSUIT

1 cm seams included



JOGGING DOLL

A friend of mine looking at this doll said that she had the sort of colouring that we would all give our eye-teeth for – flaxen blonde hair, green eyes and peachy complexion. This was coincidental because, like the rest of the rag dolls, she is entirely made of recycled bits and pieces.

Her hair is quilting wool, which was all I had in the house at the time. The peach-like bloom comes from remnants of my curtain lining, and I cut up an old paint-stained sweatshirt for her tracksuit.

She was the first rag doll I made and I am very fond of her, not least because there are lots of different bits of clothing to take on and off, and her accessories can go on for ever. I plan to make her a sleeping bag and a futon next.

TRACK SUIT

This track suit is made from a recycled crew-necked sweatshirt, preferably one with long, raglan sleeves. It is a bit fiddly so allow at least two hours to make the set and please read the pattern very carefully before you start.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ One old crew-necked sweatshirt
- ☐ Approximately 28 cm of 5 mm wide elastic
- ☐ 60 cm of white piping cord
- ☐ 2 non-sew poppers or press studs
- ☐ Badges or sew-on motifs
- ☐ Matching cotton for sewing; contrasting cotton for tacking

When you fit the tracksuit on the doll, remember it needs to fit loosely so that children can drag it on and off without anything splitting.

PREPARATION

Cut out all the pieces at the beginning.

Trace the pattern pieces and make careful note of the positioning of the pieces on the sweatshirt. Adjustments have to be made according to the size and style of sweatshirt used, so don't worry if the pattern doesn't seem to fit exactly.

Place the pattern piece for the tracksuit top on the neckline of the sweatshirt. I found that the sleeves of my old sweatshirt went out at a different angle from the sleeves on the pattern. If this happens to you, don't cut through the shoulders (as I did), cut the arms along the shoulder seams of the sweatshirt to the same size as the pattern, as if the pattern and the sweatshirt were an exact match.

Cut round the pattern, across the ends of the sleeves, underarm seams and hemline. Do not cut through shoulder seams.

Cut the yoke from any part of the sweatshirt.

The trousers of the tracksuit are made from the sleeves and cuffs of the sweatshirt. Cut one trouser pattern from each sleeve, placing the hem line of the pattern to the hem of the cuff.

From the welt, cut a strip approximately 20 cm by 3 cm to bind the neck.

Cut another piece from the welt about 15 cm by 5 cm to make a headband.

MAKING UP

Pin, tack and machine the underarm seams with right sides together, clipping the seam allowance on the curved edges.

Pin, tack and machine the back and front yoke together along the shoulder line. Turn back the facings on the fold lines and fix non-sew poppers or press studs in position shown.

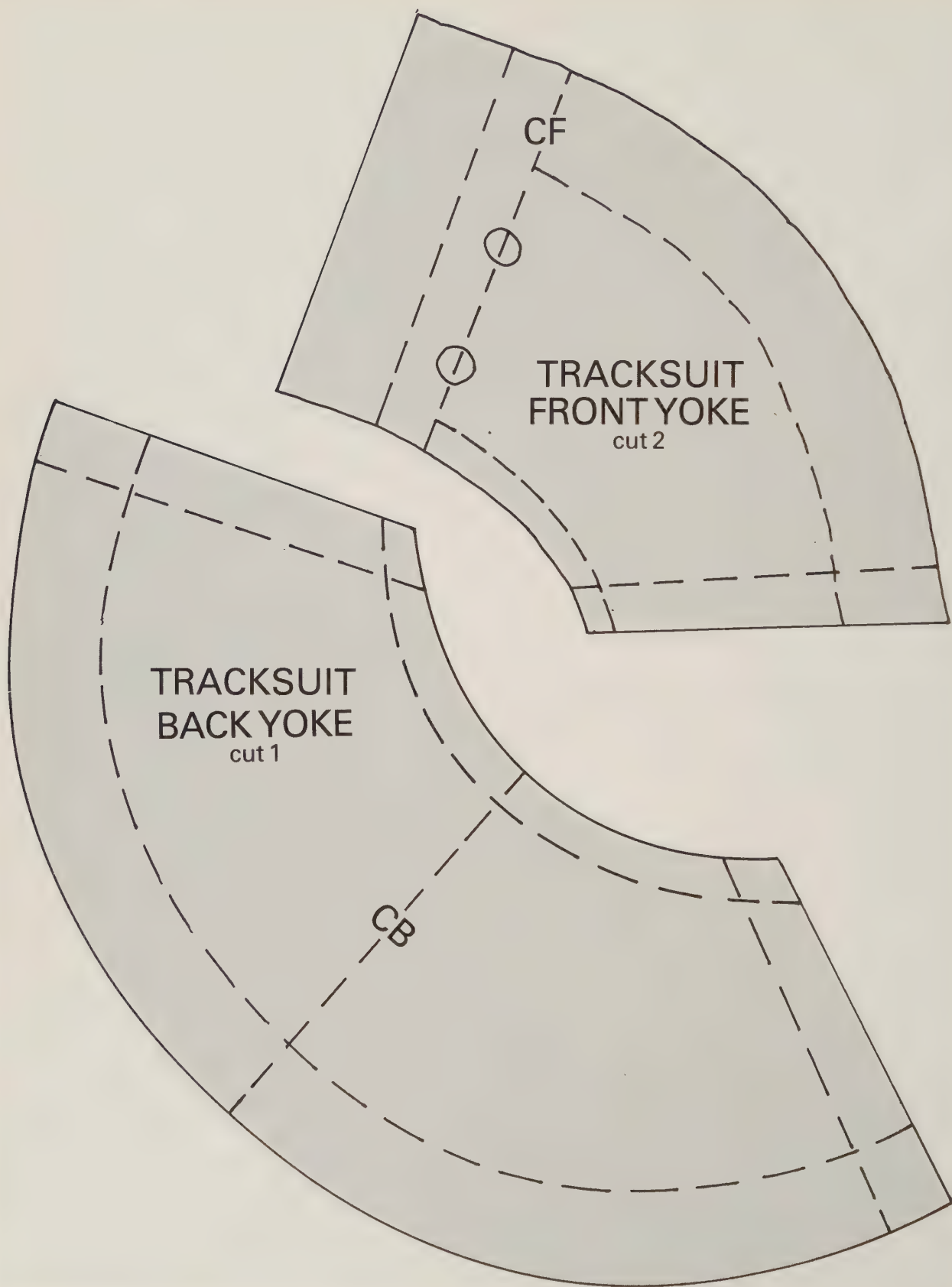
Join the yoke to the main body by overlapping curved lower edge of the yoke with the main body piece about 2 cm all round and sewing it into place by hand. Back stitch bottom of sweatshirt neck band to yoke to keep it firm and slip stitch along top.

Bind the neck edge using the strip cut from the welt.

Turn up the hem to hip level and machine 1 cm from bottom.

In the front middle, make a slit big enough to take the cord, and button hole stitch the slit. Thread the cord through, knotting it at each end.





Machine or hand stitch the raw edges and roll the sleeves over a couple of times.

HEADBAND

Fold strip in half, right sides together, and machine along bottom and sides, leaving top open. Turn right side out and stitch top edges 'in. Sew the ends together firmly to make a band.

TROUSERS

Pin, tack and machine the inner leg seams of each trouser piece with right sides together, adjusting the tightness at the hem to fit the doll's leg.

Stitch the two pieces together round the crutch seam.

Turn over the top edge on the dotted line (2 cm) and machine (zigzag if possible) close to the raw edge, leaving a gap on one of the seams to draw through the elastic.

Overlap the ends of the elastic and sew together after checking that the trousers fit. Finish off the opening by sewing down by hand. I neatened all the raw edges by machining with zigzag stitch; this isn't strictly necessary but it gives the tracksuit a longer life.

LEG WARMERS/THICK SOCKS

YOU WILL NEED

- Oddments of double knitting wool
- 1 pair each size 8 and 10 (4 mm and 3¼ mm) knitting needles

MAKING UP

Using size 10 needles cast on 31 sts and work 2.5 cm in knit 1 purl 1 rib.

Change to stocking stitch – purl 1 row, knit 1 row – for 7 cm and work in a pattern – you could make up alternate centimetre bands in contrasting colours.

Change to size 8 needles and original colour and work 3 cm in knit 1 purl 1 rib. Cast off loosely in rib.

Make a second leg warmer to match.

Sew each one into a tube along the long edge with right sides together, matching stripes carefully, then turn right sides out and press.

If you want to make thick socks, use this pattern and stitch up the ends with the shorter rib to form a sock.

TRAINERS FOR JOGGER

Use pattern for American footballer sports shoes on page 47.

SPORTS BAG

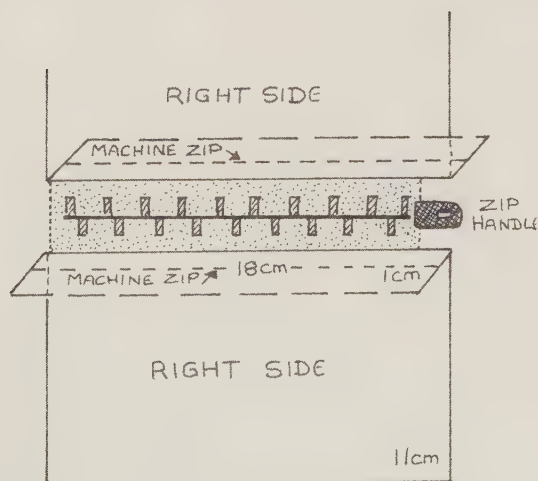
YOU WILL NEED

- Scraps of fabric (I used taffeta) cut into two rectangles 18 cm by 12 cm and two circles 9 cm in diameter.
- 15 cm zip in contrasting colour
- 70 cm of 1.5 cm wide petersham ribbon (same colour as zip)
- Matching cotton for sewing; contrasting cotton for tacking

There is a 1 cm seam allowance throughout.

MAKING UP

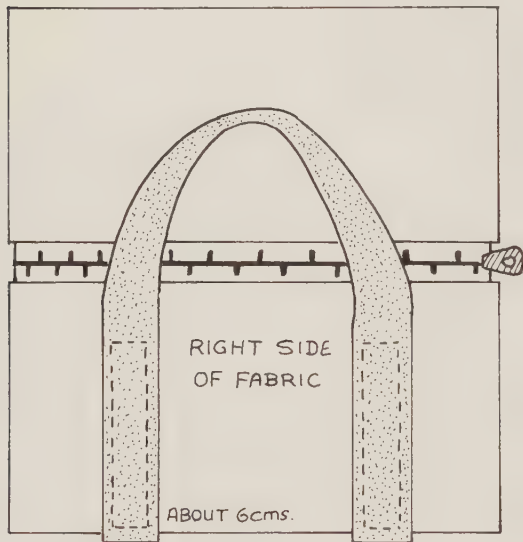
Turn in one of the long edges on each rectangle and lay along each side of the zip so that the teeth are exposed. Machine into place.



Now make the handles. Cut the ribbon into two equal lengths. Fold each length in a U-shape. With the zipped up main part of the bag flat on your work top, place the cut edges of the ribbons to the raw outer edges of the bag, about 6 cm apart.

Make sure the ribbons are not twisted; pin and tack into place.

The ribbons should be sewn down for about 9 cm from the outer edges. Machine or back stitch into place (see drawing).



Repeat handle on other side

Now turn the bag inside out and join along the base to form a cylinder.

Undo the zip and keeping the bag inside out, insert the two circles at each end. Pin, tack and machine or hand stitch into place. I found it easier to sew by hand in back stitch.

Turn right side out and press.

She is carrying a towel in her sports bag (a spare face flannel) but there are lots of different things she might want to pack.

PACKING DOLL

This doll was finally christened Candy and she is a very leggy lady – I think I must have cut the legs on the long side – but she will show you what an undressed doll looks like.

Her blue-spotted bikini top and pants – scraps from Sunshine Susie's sundress – and all her underclothes are made to the same basic pattern, which is incredibly easy. The orange silk petticoat is a simple rectangle of material seamed down one side and elasticated.

The basket suitcase came from my local flowershop and used to hold two potted hyacinths. I washed the earthy polythene lining and lined it with pretty fabric to turn it into a splendid travelling trunk.

Her mattress, eiderdown and lacy pillow are all recycled materials, most of them rather tatty but easily refurbished and made into marvellous playthings.

BASIC UNDERCLOTHES/BIKINI PATTERN

FOR THE HALTER OR STRAPPED TOP, YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Rectangle of fabric 7.5 cm deep by 30 cm long
- ☐ 2 strips of matching fabric, 15 cm by 2.5 cm, or two 15 cm lengths of matching ribbon 1 cm wide

Fold the rectangle in half, right sides together, and seam up the side. Turn right side out and press the band so that the seam lies in the middle. Tuck in the ends and stitch down.

Run a double thread through the middle and gather.

Make narrow halter straps out of strips of material 15 cm long and 2.5 cm wide. Or if you are using ribbon, swallowtail or hem one end of each length.



Then go ahead as follows.

Put the bandeau top in position and mark where the straps should be. Fold them round the bandeau, gathering it slightly, and sew firmly in place across the tops.



Fold shoulder strap round band, gathering slightly, and stitch on dotted lines

Fit the garment again and then sew on poppers or hooks and eyes at the back. Tie straps in place.

FOR THE KNICKERS OR SHORTS, YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Scraps of fabric, not less than 2 rectangles measuring 15 cm by 30 cm
- ☐ 30 cm very narrow elastic

These are made from the basic tracksuit trouser pattern (page 49).

For bloomer knickers, cut to a line about 3 cm below the crotch. Hem the top and bottoms, and thread through the top hem with narrow elastic.

For Bermuda shorts, cut to a line about 7 cm below the crotch. Hem the top only and thread with elastic.

PETTICOAT

You will need a rectangle of fabric about 38 cm by 15 cm and 15 cm of narrow elastic. Seam the short sides, right sides together. Turn over the top 1 cm and stitch down, turning in raw edge as you sew. Push narrow elastic through with a safety pin. Turn up hem and decorate with lace or other trimming.

AMERICAN FOOTBALLER

Small boys like playing with dolls too and they were unanimous about the doll they wanted – an American Footballer.

The clothes are as near as possible to the real thing – apparently the ‘padding bodice’ really is separate from the T-shirt and is laced up at the back just like this one. This bodice is constructed from a sponge washing up cloth from a big supermarket chain – which adds a different dimension to your usual household shopping list. None of it is difficult, but the whole costume – helmet and visor, T-shirt and padded bodice, trousers, socks and shoes – will take about two evenings to make, unless you are incredibly quick. The results are worth it however: the whole effect is sensational.

I made the doll in dark brown cotton with brown suede eyes. His hair is an 18 cm circle of black fur fabric. Run a line of stitching round the edge. Do not finish off. Glue fur on head like a cap, then pull thread until it fits snugly. Finish off securely.

PADDED T-SHIRT

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Scarlet, or bright coloured, old T-shirt or sweatshirt
- ☐ 1 metre of 1 cm wide white tape for numbers (not bias binding)
- ☐ Cotton to match T-shirt and white cotton
- ☐ Contrasting cotton for tacking
- ☐ 5 poppers to fasten back
- ☐ 1 washing up sponge cloth 20 cm square for bodice
- ☐ 1 white bootlace (or more tape) to lace bodice

PREPARATION

There are no seam allowances so you should add 5 to 7 mm on the outside of each pattern piece for the T-shirt. Trace the pattern for front and back and cut out like this:

Front: 1 piece. Cut from doubled fabric with the centre line on a fold. Add seam allowances to every outside edge (not to fold).

Back: 2 pieces. Cut from single fabric. Add seam allowances to outside edges; increase allowances at centre back to 4 cm because of the fastenings.



AMERICAN FOOTBALLER SHIRT

*For front – cut 1 on double fabric
with centre on fold*

*For back – cut 2 pieces as
detailed in pattern*

Add 5–7 mm seam allowance

fold

MAKING UP

With right sides together, machine or hand stitch shoulder seams. Sew white tape on for armband, 2 cm above raw edge. Then sew up side seams. Turn in the seam allowance on raw edges – neck, arms and hem. Either slip stitch

by hand or machine the edges under on the neck and arms. You can get away with pinking the hem edge or zigzag machining it.

Attach the fastenings at the back: turn the left centre edge in 2 cm – the edge should overlap the centre of the back towards the right side by



2 cm; pin with the raw edge just turned under again to keep it neat.

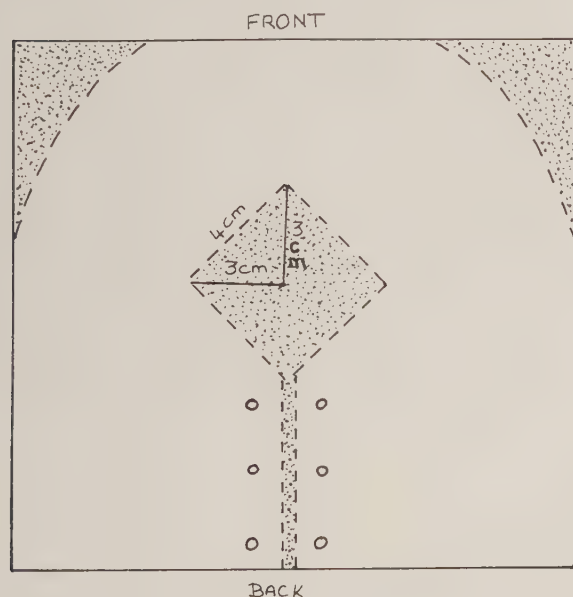
Repeat with the right side back, so that it overlaps the left and then machine, or firmly hand sew, each side with a double row of stitching 1 cm apart so that the poppers can be sewn in between the two rows of stitching.

Sew on the five pairs of poppers.

Pin the tape on to front and back to make the numbers you choose, tack and then machine or slip stitch to the T-shirt with white cotton.

Padding Fold the sponge cloth in quarters and cut a 3 cm line across the centre. This will give a diamond shaped hole in the middle of the unfolded cloth.

Cut from the back V to the centre of the outer edge. Punch three holes either side of this opening to take the bootlace. Round off the corners at the front as shown in the drawing.



TROUSERS

These are the Jogging Doll's tracksuit trousers (see page 41), made in white fleece left over from the duck (see page 53), used wrong side out. You could equally well use any other thickish white material, old T-shirts or towelling. I thought the footballer needed a leaner outline so the seam allowance is omitted

at the sides and top. The ankles just need to be hemmed, by hand or machine, because the fleece is quite thick; if you use a lighter weight fabric, you may want to insert narrow elastic. The red bands on the trouser legs are red ribbon hand stitched down the sides after the trousers were made. On reflection, it would have been easier to sew them by machine or hand before making up the trousers.

SOCKS

These are really white legwarmers with a red stripe, made to the pattern on page 41. Follow this exactly but sew up one end of each woolly tube to make socks.

SPORTS SHOES/FOOTBALL BOOTS

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 20 cm square of red felt
- ☐ 0.5 metre narrow white tape
- ☐ Red cotton

MAKING UP

Use the foot part of the basic Rag Doll pattern (see page 28). Cut four foot pieces to dotted line on pattern. Trim the top edges with pinking shears if you like. Machine or blanket stitch the pieces together in pairs to within 1.25 cm of the top.

Turn the top of each piece over and stitch down near the raw edge. Run the narrow tape through with a small safety pin.

HELMET AND VISOR

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 20 cm square of red felt
- ☐ Red cotton for sewing
- ☐ 20 cm square of thick cotton such as T-shirt material, quilting or fleece
- ☐ Red, white or black bias binding and matching cotton for sewing
- ☐ Contrasting cotton for tacking
- ☐ 9 white pipe cleaners

It took me ages to think up the pattern for this but it is quickly made.

MAKING UP

I have only allowed 2mm seam allowance for the felt, add more if you wish. The lining needs to be slightly smaller than the outer layer, so allow 3 mm seam allowance. Cut out three full size pieces from each material to make the back of the helmet; cut out two to dotted base line from each material for the front.

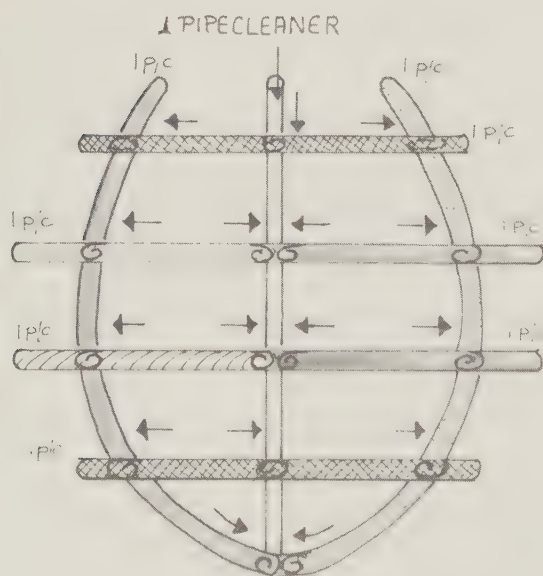
Sew the felt pieces together, seaming down each side by machine or back stitch. Finish off each seam firmly. Press with a steam iron or damp cloth and ordinary iron.

Repeat with the lining material. Press. Put the lining and felt helmet shapes together, check that they fit properly, trim if necessary and pin.

Tack up helmet edges. Finish edges in one of the following ways – depending on how much time you have and what is handy:

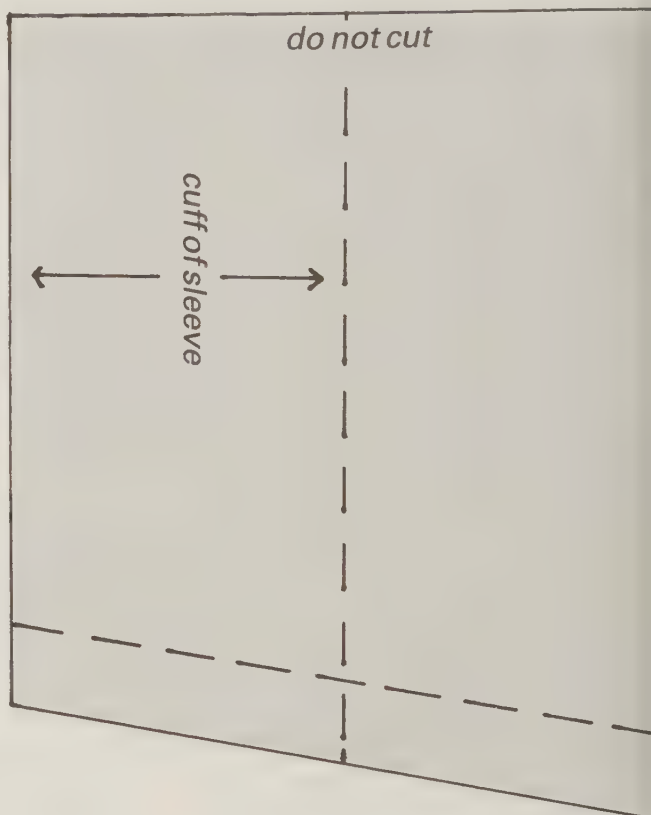
- machine edges in straight stitch or satin stitch, in red or black cotton; *or*
- oversew all edges neatly by hand with red cotton or black embroidery silk; *or*
- bind all edges with white or black bias binding.

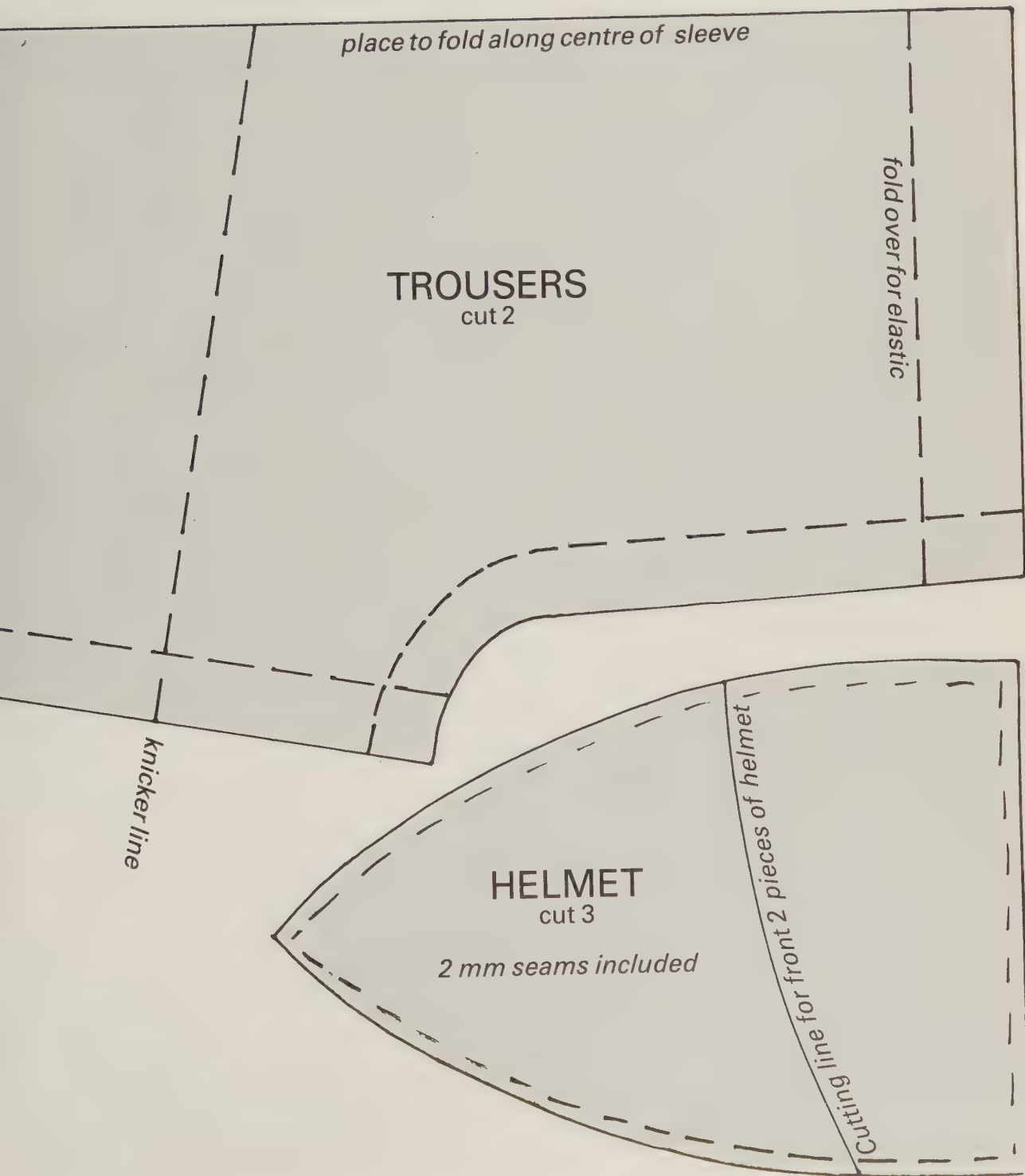
Make the visor with the nine pipe cleaners assembled like this:



Arrows show which way to wrap one pipe cleaner round another at corners

Oversew all joints with double white cotton to secure. Fit on doll with helmet in position and adjust if necessary. Sew centre, top and side pipe cleaners into helmet very firmly with red or other matching coloured cotton. Bend visor to a satisfactory shape.





MR BO JANGLES

This towelling rag doll – if you can call a chap a doll – evolved from the vaguest idea. Max Webster had said he wanted a clown but various mothers had warned me that their children were terrified of the traditional clown, so I was trying to dream up a character who would have the essential qualities of a clown – a funny face, a floppy body, oddly fitting clothes – but would be very obviously warm and endearing for children to play with. Two things came out of my dreaming. The first was that towelling makes an ideal material for rag dolls, soft, comforting and washable; the second was the emergence of an amiable punk, a clown with a 1980s hairdo. This perm is knotted firmly into his scalp but even so, it is probably not suitable for younger children who might manage to eat the metallic ribbon. You could substitute short lengths of ribbon, securely sewn in, or a piece of fur fabric glued to the towelling and finished off with stitching round the edge, like the American Footballer (page 44).

The bells on his knees and a distant memory of a musical number about the original Mr Bo Jangles, who sported oversized, patched trousers with braces, gave the doll his name.

As an alternative, you could make a pierrot clown's costume on the lines of the little clown on page 117. Use exactly the same design enlarged to fit the rag doll – remember that, to be satisfactorily baggy, the costume has to be bigger than the doll. Elasticate at waist, wrists and ankles.

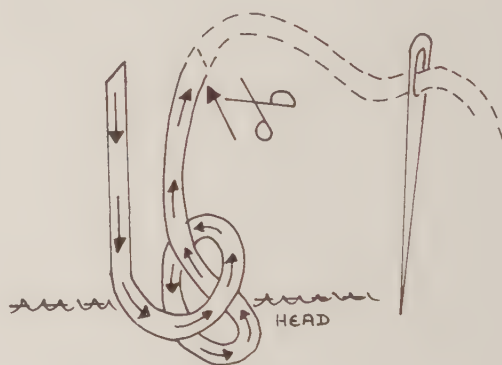
YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 1 rag doll, made up in whatever fabric you prefer – pink towelling is ideal
- ☐ Oddments of present-wrapping, curly, paper ribbon, metallic or not
- ☐ Oddments of cloth ribbon
- ☐ Pink and blue embroidery thread
- ☐ Scraps of old T-shirt and contrasting cotton
- ☐ 25 cm outrageous material for trousers
- ☐ Scraps of interesting material for patches

- ☐ 20 cm narrow (5 mm) elastic
- ☐ 40 cm narrow (1.25 cm) petersham ribbon
- ☐ 2 bells
- ☐ Optional: fake flowers, scraps of towelling for boots, balloon, scoop from dishwasher powder

MAKING UP

Hairdo With a large-eyed needle, thread ribbon through the towelling. Leave about 3.5 cm of ribbon for each curl before bringing out the needle, over stitching once and knotting the ribbon. Then cut off, leaving another 3.5 cm. Repeat this with different sorts of ribbon – everything you have round the house – until you have covered his head.



T-shirt Use the tracksuit top pattern (page 36) as a basic and draw the neckline up as illustrated. Cut out the basic pattern twice. Make a little cut in the neckline of one piece.

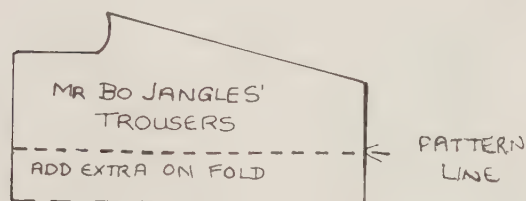


Cut along solid lines. Dotted line is tracksuit pattern neckline



Machine with zigzag or hand stitch with blanket stitch round all seams: down neck shoulders and outer arms, up sides and underarms, round cut in neckline. Roll up sleeves.

Trousers Use the tracksuit trousers pattern (page 49) as a basic. Add on 2.5 cm to the width on the foldline to make the trousers 10 cm baggier in all; cut straight on down the sides to the hemline, disregarding the instruction to use the cuff of the sweatshirt.



Sew up the inner legs and then from front to back across the crutch. Turn over top leaving a channel

for the elastic to run through. Leave a gap at centre front to insert the elastic.

Before you put in the elastic, sew on the patches. Use contrasting thread and whatever decorative stitches you prefer. Then sew on the bells.

Push the elastic through using a safety pin and then try on the trousers over the T-shirt, adjust the elastic and stitch firmly. Turn up the hem by machining or hand stitching it in place.

Braces These are lengths of petersham ribbon, sewn on to the trousers at the back, crisscrossed and buttoned at the front. Sew the ribbons at the back. Fix the buttons on either side at the front. Pull the ribbons from back to front, cross over, and snip buttonholes in the appropriate place. Blanket stitch the buttonholes and hem the raw edges of the ribbon to finish off.

The dishwasher powder scoop is an optional extra, which seemed to suit him. It's firmly sewn to his wrist.

MRS PADDLEQUACK

Anna-Louise Lawrence, now aged 21, tells me that her favourite game was to take Mother Duck and her ducklings down to the pond – which is made out of silver foil. Apparently this game went on endlessly to the great satisfaction of Anna-Louise, her mother and doubtless the ducks. I saw a duck in a toy store in Los Angeles who was actually called Jemima Puddleduck; she had the story on a label round her neck to prove her identity. She came complete with bonnet and shawl, and you could easily sew these if you wanted to make a similar Beatrix Potter character. You can alter the appearance of Mrs Paddlequack to some extent by changing the position of her wings and feet. I suggest you experiment before sewing them finally in place. Despite my notes on stuffing (page 13), this is one toy which should be firmly and fully stuffed. She is very very simple to make and should not take more than two hours.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm white fleece
- ☐ Scraps of yellow towelling (a face flannel would do)
- ☐ About 200 gm washable stuffing
- ☐ Two 1 cm circles of black felt and black embroidery silk for eyes
- ☐ White cotton for sewing; contrasting cotton for tacking

PREPARATION

Trace the pattern pieces (pages 56–59) and add a good 5 mm (or more) seam allowance (see page 8).

Lay the pattern pieces on the fabric and cut out, remembering to reverse the pattern for the second

side and two of the four wings. If you use double-sided towelling (which is the norm) you need not reverse the pattern for the feet or beak.

MAKING UP

Join beak sections to head from A to B. Use a small stitch to avoid the towelling fraying.

Now join the two side pieces together from C to D across the duck's back, round her head and beak and a little way down her chest.

Join the underbody to each side along the raw edges, starting from C, her tail, each time. Leave an opening where shown on one side only.



Clip the seams carefully and turn through to the right side. Stuff Mrs Paddlequack carefully but firmly starting with her beak. Mould her head with full cheeks.

When she is full and fat, sew up the gap neatly by hand (see page 11). You may still need to push her into shape – I had to squash her down with a firm hand, so that she sat nicely.

Join the wings together in pairs, leaving the straight side open. Turn through to right side and slip stitch across the opening. Sew the wings on to the duck where you wish; the easiest way is to slip stitch the wing on to the side, making sure you stitch right through each layer of fleece.

Join the feet together in pairs, leaving a gap open at the back of each, where shown on the pattern.

Turn each foot right side out and stuff lightly. Sew up opening by hand or machine.

Stitch lines by hand or machine where shown on the foot pattern, to look like webbed feet.

Oversew the feet on to her tummy where you choose.

Cut out 1 cm circles of black felt and glue them in place as eyes. Embroider over these with black embroidery silks so that no white fleece shows through. Use a long needle and start by drawing a thread from one side of her face to the other, securing it on either side. This gives a really bird-like look to the duck. Then make some ducklings.

THE DUCKLINGS (OR HOW TO MAKE POM-POMS)

It is such a very long time since I made pom-poms that I got myself into a cat's cradle with the wool and had to be rescued by Rebecca. 'Every child,' said Becca severely, 'finds it very easy.' Here, for grown-ups, is the way to make pom-poms.

YOU WILL NEED

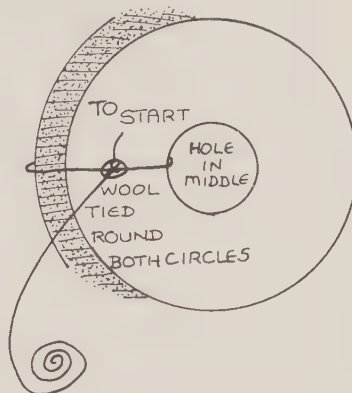
- ☐ Scraps of white or yellow wool
- ☐ 2 circles of card, about 7.5 cm diameter with a hole about 3 cm in the middle

- ☐ Wool needle
- ☐ Scraps of yellow or orange felt

MAKING UP

It is easiest to wind the scraps of wool into little balls which will go through the ever-decreasing hole in the middle of the card.

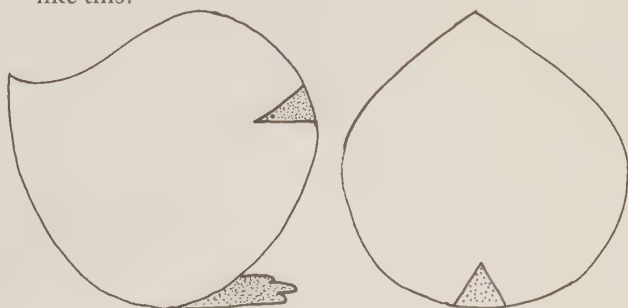
Start off by tying the end of the wool in a loop round the card.



The principle of pom-poms is that you wind the wool round and round two circles of card, through the hole in the middle, until it is impossible to push through another strand; when the hole gets very small, use a needle to thread the wool through.

Then cut round the outside of the fat circle through all the wool until you reach the pieces of card. Tie a piece of wool round and round between the two pieces of card. You should then have a wild woolly ball, securely tied in the middle. Cut out the two pieces of card.

Take some small sharp scissors and trim the pom-pom into a duckling sort of shape, something like this:



Duckling shape in profile and from above

DUCK

Add 7mm – 1cm seam allowance •

C

SIDE BODY
cut 2

leave open





WING
cut 4

leave open

leave open

D



UNDERBODY
cut 1

foot

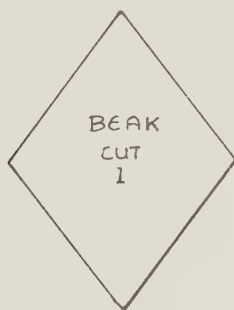
position

Add 7mm - 1cm seam
allowance

FOOT
cut 4

leave open

Cut a long, diamond-shaped piece of yellow felt and glue it into the head end as a beak; cut out two feet shapes and glue them on.



Sew the felt on using yellow cotton and a long needle so that you can secure the stitches at the centre of the duckling.



These are very good rainy day toys for children – and grown-ups. You can make all sorts of different baby birds, or indeed anything which takes your fancy.

PARROT

This parrot is completely over the top. He is called Floyd (as in Pink Floyd), because he is psychedelic and I am a product of the Sixties. You could just as easily make him a tasteful pink and grey and call him something serious like Solomon. Rona called our prototype Fred – there's nothing wrong with Fred, it's my father's name – but it never really caught the essence of this bird; Rona just couldn't shake off the memory of the Monty Python parrot (which was dead, unlike this one which is most aggressively alive). This parrot is very easy and enormously cheering to make. He shouldn't take more than four hours. The only tricky bit is sewing the corners of his yellow felt beak into his face, which is another case of creative pinning and hand sewing. Apart from this, the hand sewing is really cobbling because the stitches all get lost in the fur fabric. When you finish, free all the fur caught in seams; it makes an enormous difference to his finished appearance.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm red fur fabric
- ☐ 25 cm yellow fur fabric
- ☐ 25 cm pink fur fabric
- ☐ 20 cm square yellow felt for beak and soles of feet
- ☐ 20 cm square pink felt for tops of feet
- ☐ 20 cm square pale pink (or anything else) felt for eye piece
- ☐ 1 pair 15 mm green safety eyes
- ☐ Sundry sequins to trim face
- ☐ 3 royal blue and 3 turquoise feathers – optional
- ☐ 1.2 metre strong green garden wire for feet
- ☐ About 200 gm stuffing
- ☐ Red, pink and blue cotton for sewing
- ☐ For perch: invisible thread, 1.5 metres of string or cord, 2 tassels, 32.5 cm length of dowelling, metal ring and cup hook

PREPARATION

Trace the pattern pieces (pages 64–68), adding 7 mm to 1 cm seam allowance on all edges except folds and cheek pieces (see page 10). If you want to follow this colour scheme, cut up the fabrics as follows:

- ☐ 2 red fur side body pieces, 2 red fur wings, 1 red fur long tail-piece, 1 red fur short tail-piece
- ☐ Pink fur front gusset, pink fur short tail-piece
- ☐ 2 yellow fur wings, 1 yellow fur long tail-piece
- ☐ 2 yellow felt beak pieces, 2 yellow felt feet pieces
- ☐ 2 pink felt feet pieces
- ☐ 2 pale pink (or anything else) felt eye pieces

Remember to reverse the paper pattern for the second piece of each pair.

Make the underneath pieces for the wings and tail a smidgeon bigger all round than the top pieces, say 2 mm, so that the contrast colour shows round the outside when the wing or tail piece is turned through to the right side; pin, tack and sew the pieces together edge to edge to achieve this.

Cut out pattern pieces, making sure that fur lies downwards on all pieces. Floyd's front fur lies the wrong way but he is so eccentric, it doesn't really matter.

MAKING UP

Sew all pieces of fur fabric with right sides together. Pin and tack pieces before stitching by machine or hand.

Join the side body pieces from A to Z along centre back.

Join the underbody gusset from B to Y, snipping seams where necessary. Leave Y to Z, across his tail, open on both sides.

Join his beak section from A to C along curved edge. Trim edges so that there is a minimum of seam allowance left down the centre beak.

Join his beak to his face, matching As, Bs and Ds. I stitched all of his beak in by hand because I found it easier, but there is no reason not to machine it if you wish. Start pinning in the centre top and stitch along this top seam first. Then work your way down each side and under his chin. You will have to snip the corners a fraction as you go.

Trim and clip curved seams and into corners. Turn right side out.

Glue his eye pieces in position, matching Ds and Bs, and fix in his safety eyes, making a hole for the stalks with a pair of sharp scissors. Fix the washers in securely. Sew round the outside by hand. Decorate with sequins now or later (see page 113 for guidance).

Make his two tail pieces by sewing each pair together, leaving straight edge open. Snip into all the corners and curves. Turn right side out and then stitch down dotted lines. Machine the two tail pieces together across the tops of each.

Stuff the parrot firmly, starting with a tiny bit of stuffing in the curved bit of his beak, which is difficult to reach.

Insert the tail pieces 1.5 cm into the end of his body; his breast and the underside of his tail should match and the top of his tail should match his wings and back. You could change this colour scheme, of course, but I tried several variations and this looked the best. Sew tail in place by hand through all thicknesses.

Make his wings up, turn through and hand stitch on to his back – if you are canny, you can stitch the hole up and attach the wing to his back at the same time. I ran two lines of stitching down his wings to secure them firmly to his back because I thought he might be flailed around the room by a wing and the sewing had better be tough enough to withstand the onslaught.

Make his feet up in pairs of contrasting felt – I used pink and yellow, top-stitching round three sides, but not the straight top edge. Taking two 65 cm lengths of strong green garden wire, bend each into the shape shown on the pattern pieces. Twist the edges round so they will not stick out, and twist the doubled loops so that they are firm, as shown on the pattern. Push through the gap at the top of each foot, well down into his toes. Sew up the gap by hand with back stitch, or machine. Sew firmly on to his front with a rectangle of stitching as indicated on the pattern piece. I found the wire did not need to go into the rectangles sewn on to his tummy.

Use the sequins or beads to trim his eye piece and round his beak. You could embroider this instead if you prefer.

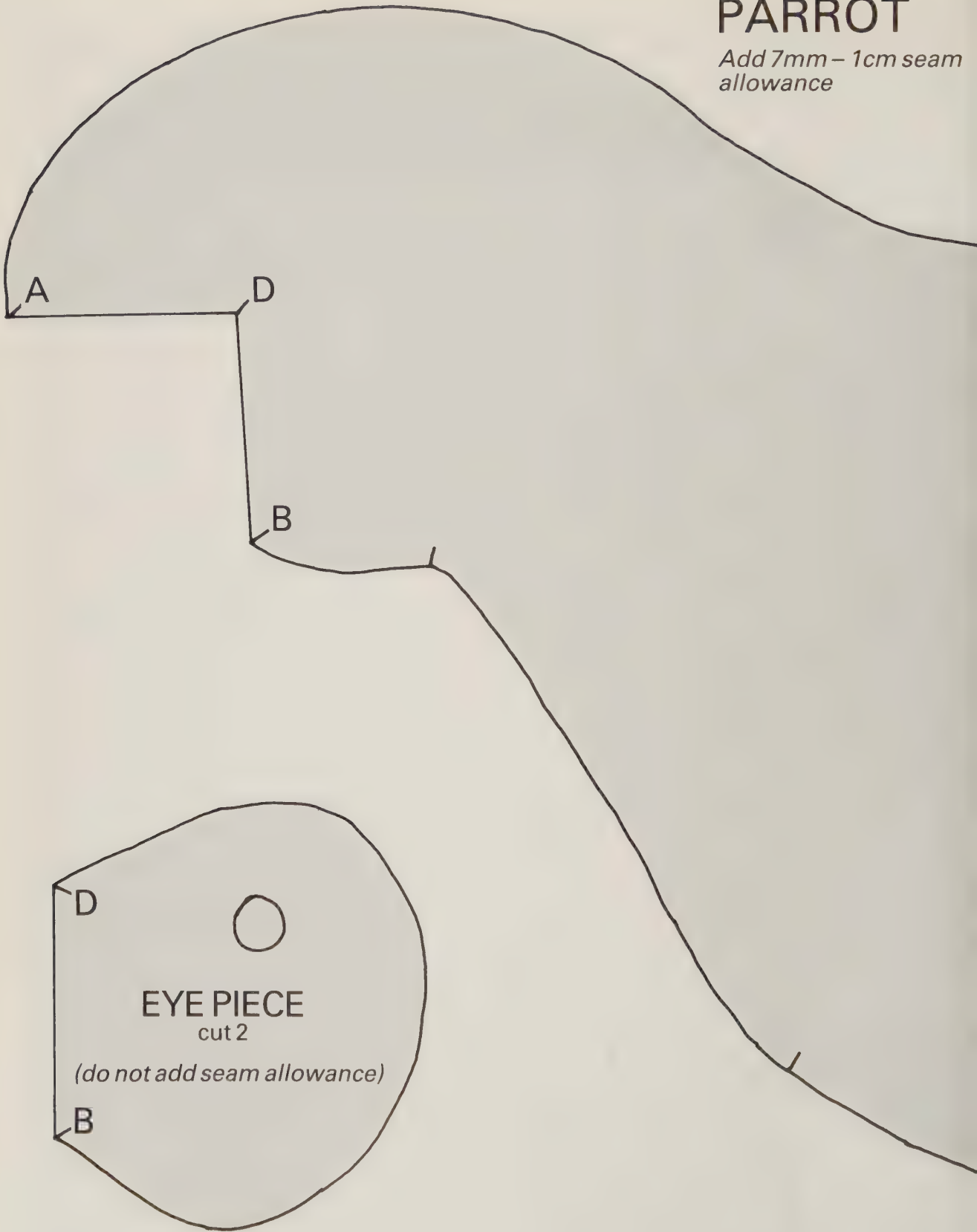
I had seen beautiful coloured feathers in John Lewis and longed to use them, so Floyd became a psychedelic cockatoo-type of parrot with a royal blue and a turquoise feather stitched to his topknot and the same stitched on to each wing.

Make his perch with the piece of dowelling and equal lengths of cord or string, attached to a ring. You can pretty up the perch by attaching a couple of tassels to the cord ends where they hit the dowelling. Sew a piece of invisible thread from the ring to the top of his head, make a small stitch and run back to the ring; try the whole thing out for size before you cut and tie the thread. Hang the ring on a cup hook fixed into a beam or joist.



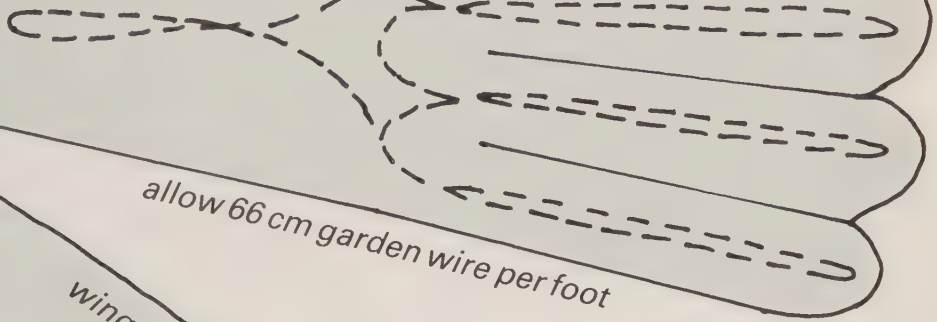
PARROT

Add 7mm – 1cm seam allowance



do not add seam allowance

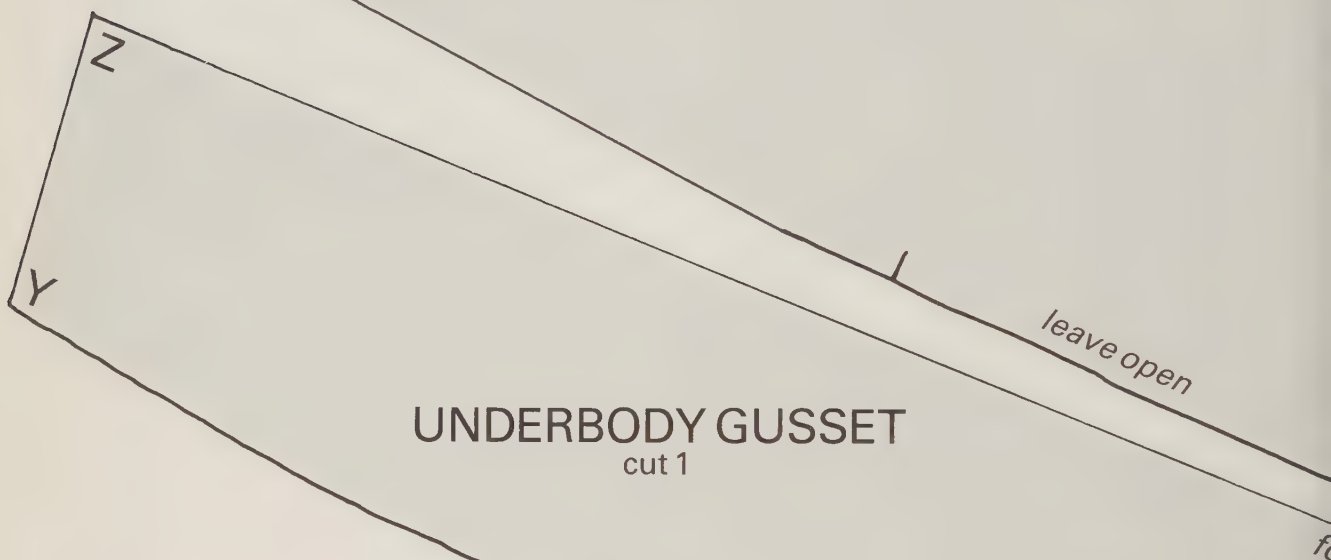
CLAW
cut 4 in felt



allow 66 cm garden wire per foot

wing position

SIDE BODY
cut 2



UNDERBODY GUSSET

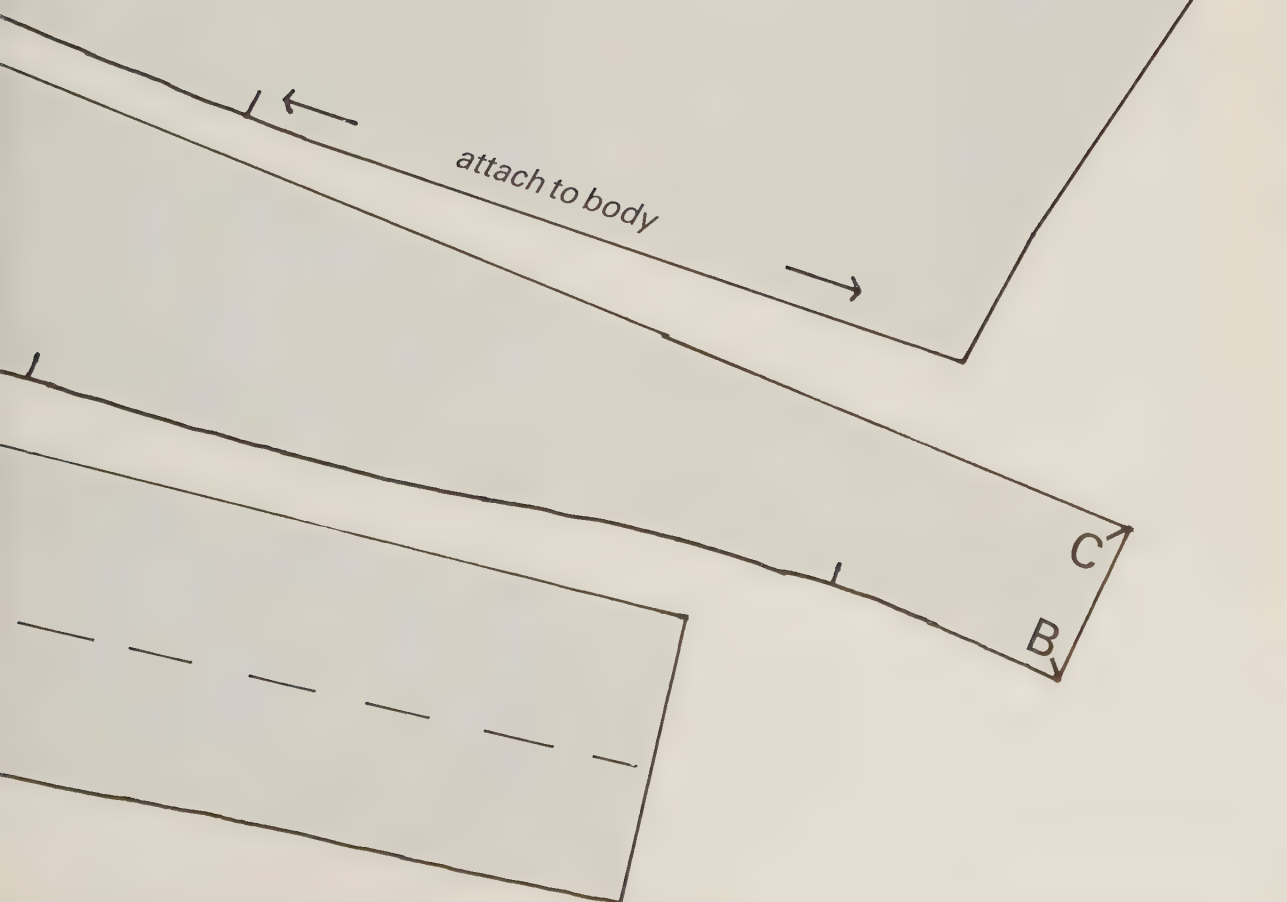
cut 1

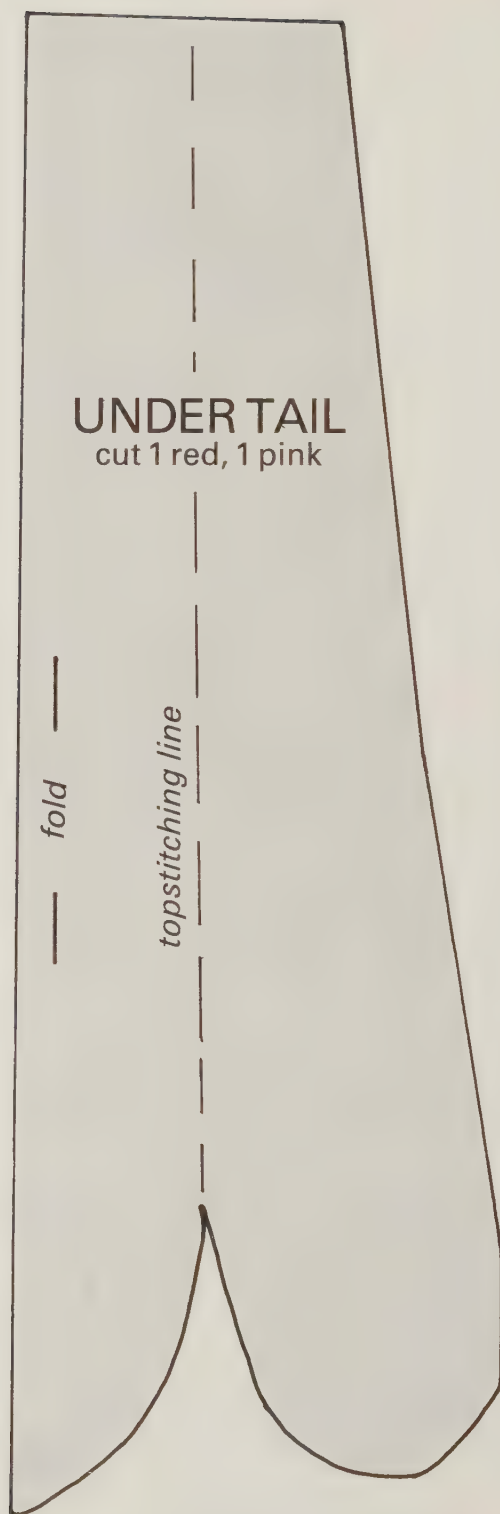
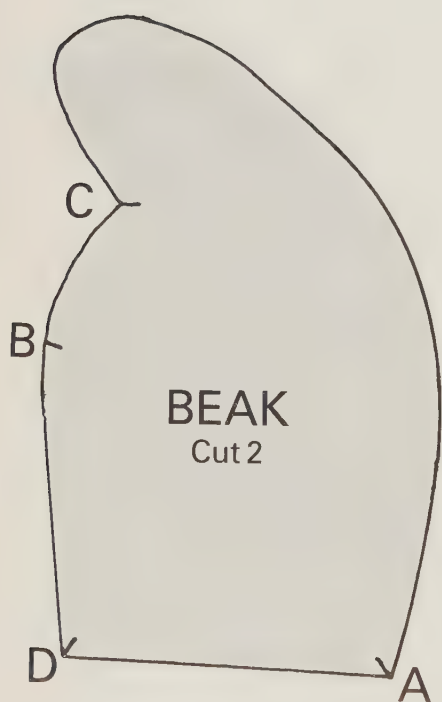


TOP TAIL

cut 1 red, 1 yellow

WING
cut 4





LEOPARD CAT

For years I had two cats, one black and one tabby, who spent their time composedly standing in front of the fire, paws tucked in and tail tucked round. Now this one stands by the fender, so much like a real one that visitors are sometimes very confused and take a few moments to understand that I do not have a baby leopard in the house. Kate Webster, who is 3, has the prototype of this cat which started life looking rather butch. She called it Miranda – which was surprising – and takes it everywhere with her.

NOTE

The cat is very simple to make. It is made directly from the stencil which includes a 7 mm seam allowance.

You can either use bought safety cats' eyes or make them yourself out of felt, which can be very effective – the instructions are below. The ready-made cats' eyes are quicker to fix and should be available in most stores with toy-making accessories. You can either buy the sort with narrowed pupils which are cat-like but faintly sinister, or this wide-eyed and dreamy sort.

If you have small children, please be careful with the whiskers – they seem to be just the sort of thing toddlers will chew or pull off and poke in their eyes. It would be safer to sew on wool whiskers for their sake. If your children are older then whiskers can be made with fish gut, or pipe cleaners if fish gut is difficult to find. The Acton Angling Company very kindly gave me metres of fish gut to experiment with and seemed not a whit surprised when I confessed that my interest in gut was nothing to do with

fishing but soft toy making – they keep various sorts of gut purely for the BBC props department.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm fur fabric
- ☐ Pair of 15 mm safety eyes, or blue and black felt and glue
- ☐ About 150 gm stuffing
- ☐ Sewing cotton to match the cat and the eyes; contrasting tacking cotton
- ☐ Black wool for nose and mouth
- ☐ Optional: Scraps of red and pink felt for tongue and glue to fix
- ☐ 1 metre blue or green ribbon, 1.5 cm wide, and bell to trim
- ☐ Black wool or pipe cleaners or fish gut for whiskers

PREPARATION

Trace the whole outline of the cat (pages 72–73) and lay it on the material with the fur pile lying downwards. Cut out the fabric. Use the same pattern reversed to cut out just the



cat's body but remember to add on 7 mm above the neck for the seam allowance.

Trace off extra pieces, one ear, one cheek, one upper face and one gusset. Lay on fabric, making certain the pile is going the right way in all cases, and cut out. Reverse the ear and cheek patterns to make a pair for each.

Mark the important points on the fabric e.g. where ears begin and end, etc.

From the leftovers, cut out a strip about 10 to 12.5 cm wide and about 30 cm long for the tail. Round the edges of the tail and machine, then turn right side out. Before you start stuffing the tail, push a pipe cleaner to the end so that you can curl the tip when it is finished. Push the stuffing in around the pipe cleaner. A large knitting needle or chopstick is helpful here, both to help turn the band from the wrong to the right side and to push the stuffing in.

MAKING UP

With firm back stitch or machining, sew the cat's face together starting with the two cheeks. Join these down the centre from A to B.

Then sew upper face to lower from C to C, through B, making sure that the centre seam lies flat.

Next sew the ears on.

It is easiest to sew the cat's nose and mouth on now, and add the eyes but not the tongue.

The nose is long stitches of black wool sewn in a fan shape. Put the needle in just below the point B and take it about 2 cm up each side seam to give you the outline to fill in.

The mouth is a triangle of black stitches, just below the nose.

Sew the shape two or three times to make a definite outline. Be careful not to go down too far to the bottom of the face or the mouth gets lost.

Sew the face to the front body from F to F through A.

Sew the front to the back, inside out, in stages. First sew K to F and finish off. Then sew

from F round to F and finish off. Then sew from F to G and finish off.

Then stitch the bottom centimetre of back seam from H to J. This makes it easier to put the gusset in.

I found it quicker to back stitch the gusset in by hand. It is up to you whether to pin, tack and machine or pin and back stitch it in.

Clip all the corners. Turn right side out and finish the face.

Carefully push out the corners of the ears and then stitch the line across the base of the ears by hand or machine.

Look at the face and position the eyes in the best place. If you are using safety eyes, take the Quik Unpick and cut a stitch where you choose to insert the eyes. Push the back of the eyes in firmly.

If you are using felt eyes, make up the eyes first. They are two small circles of blue felt, about 17 mm in diameter. Shave the fur behind the eyes and stick on with glue. Sew to secure if this is for a small child.

Cut pupils of black felt, 17 mm high and about 8 mm wide at the widest point and stick these on. Shade the eyes with black felt-tipped pen to give the heavy-lidded look. You can also embroider the pupils in satin stitch with black embroidery silk and blanket stitch round the outside to add an extra dimension to the eyes.

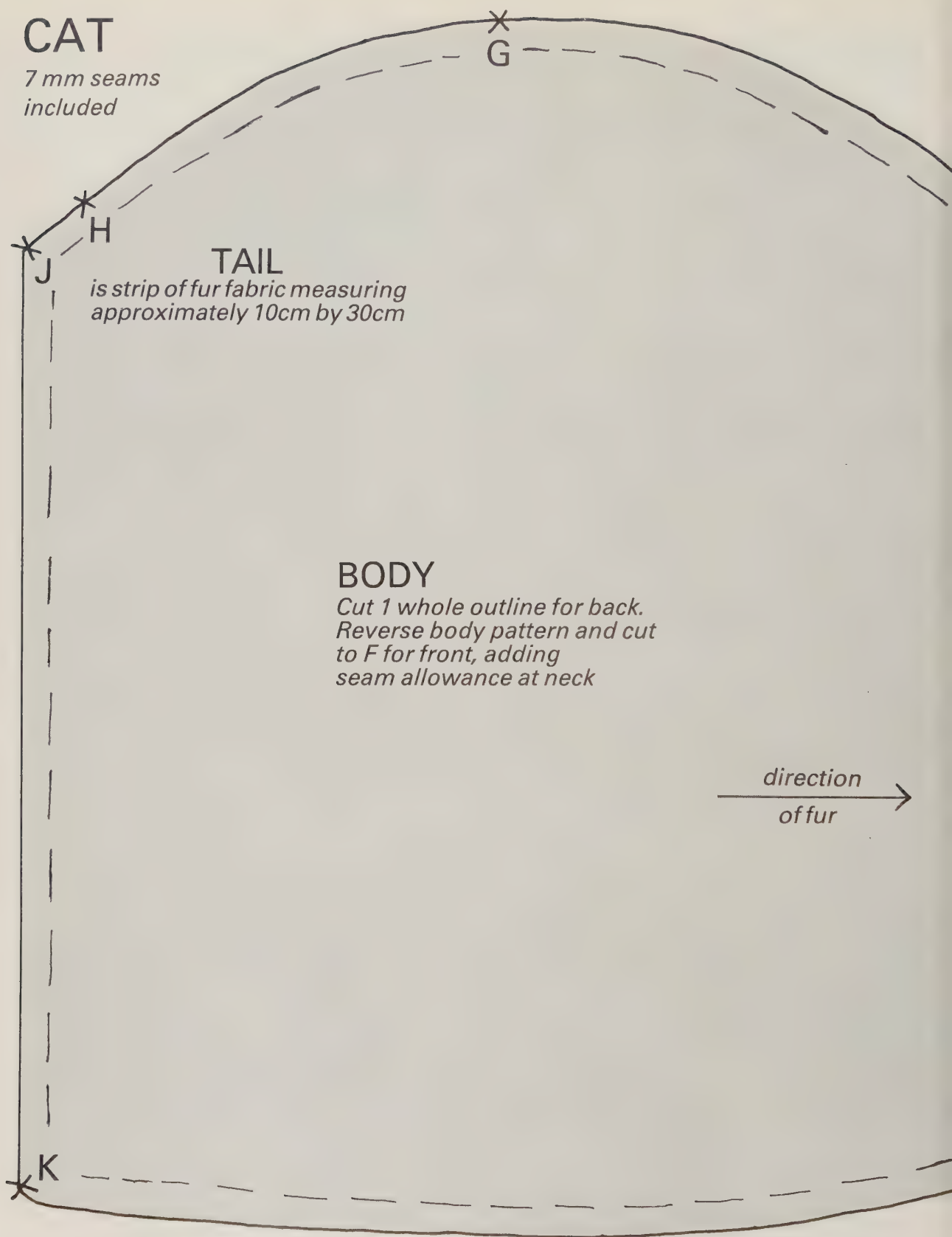
Stuff the cat firmly. Tack opening with the tail in place (seam of tail down), stand the cat up to make certain that the tail is in the right place and then sew up by hand.

Make the tongue up from scraps of red and/or pink felt. Glue on.

Sew securely if the cat is for a toddler. If you are using whiskers of fish gut, sew them in. The only way I found to do this was to sew them on one at a time. Each whisker is about 9 cm long. Put the needle in on the outside, take it through to the inside leaving enough gut for a whisker. Bring it out again and oversew a couple of times. Finish off and repeat for the rest of the whiskers. Trim them all to the right length.

CAT

7 mm seams
included



TAIL

is strip of fur fabric measuring
approximately 10cm by 30cm

BODY

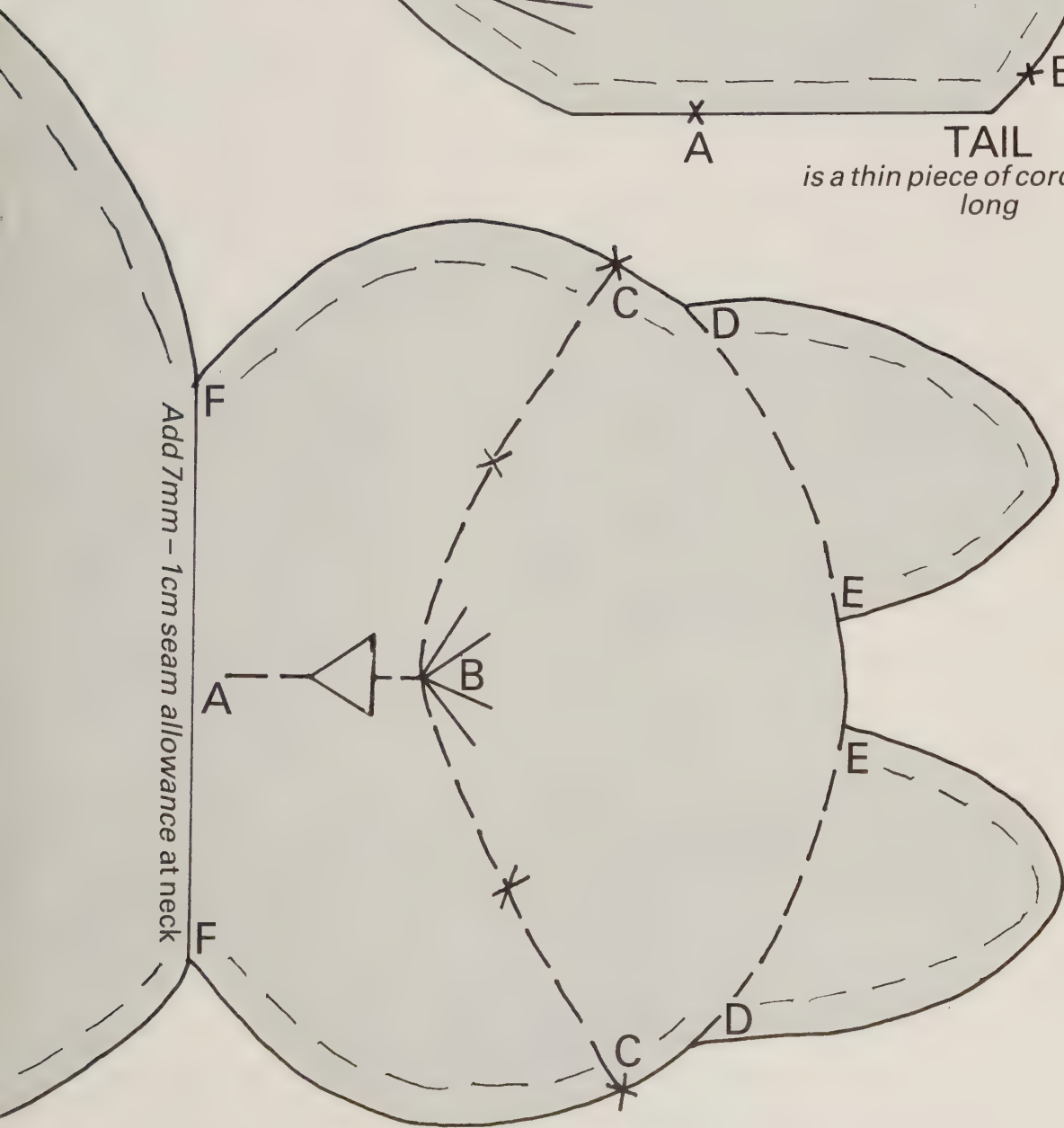
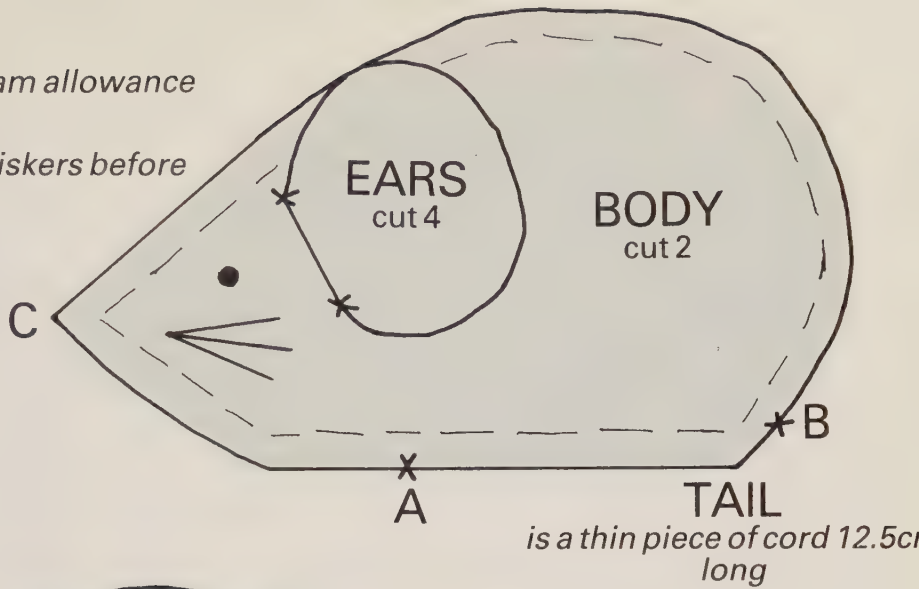
Cut 1 whole outline for back.
Reverse body pattern and cut
to F for front, adding
seam allowance at neck

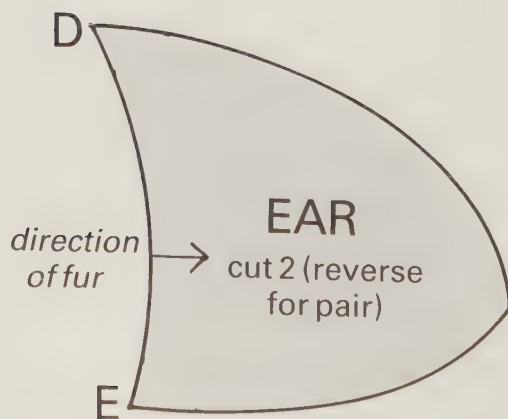
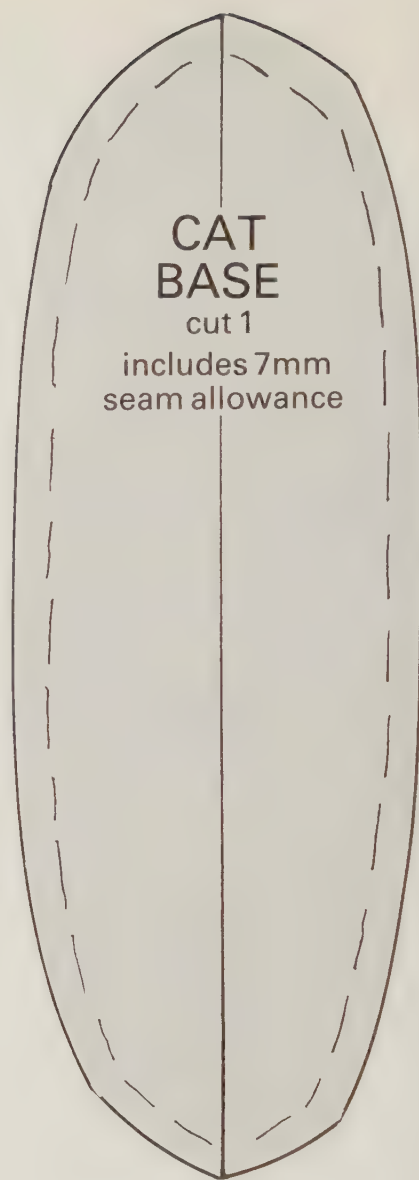
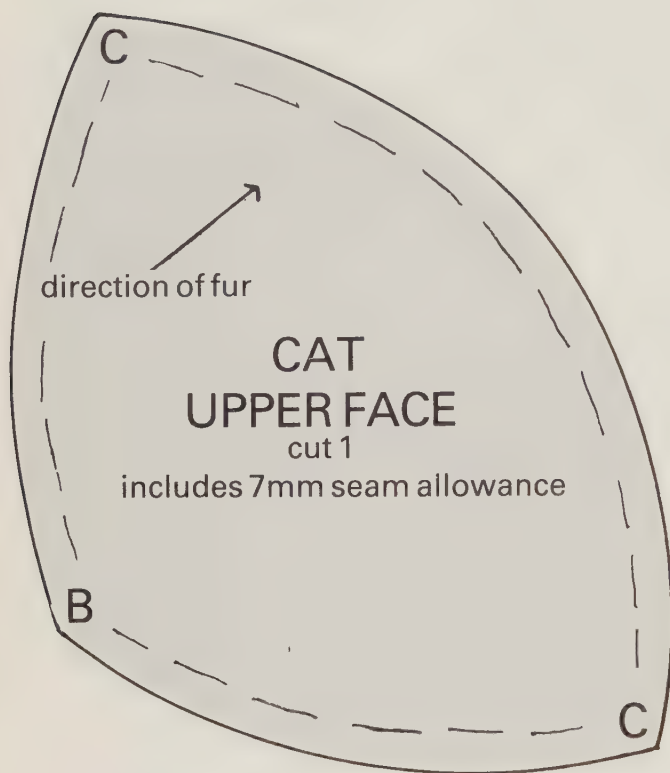
direction
of fur

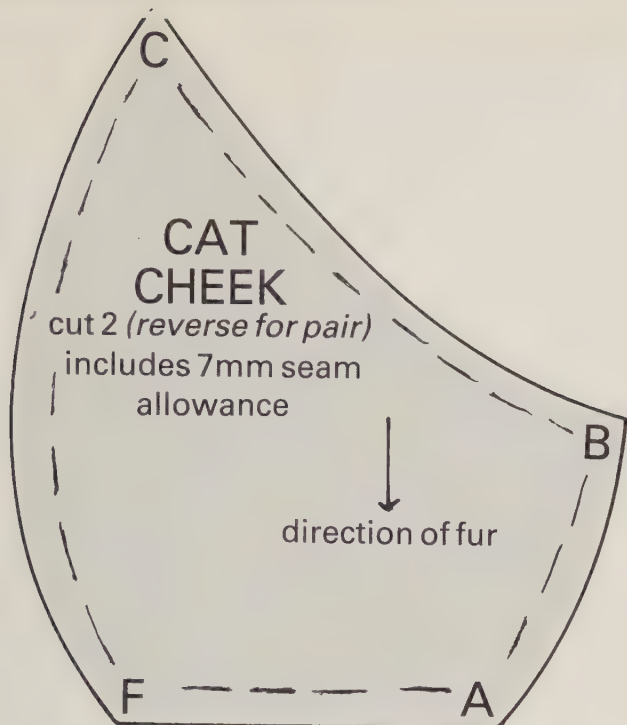
MOUSE

includes 5mm seam allowance

Sew eyes and whiskers before joining up





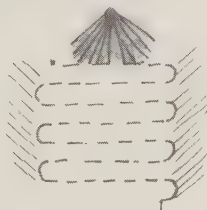


Four whiskers each side seemed adequate to me but you may want to give the cat more.

If you are using pipe cleaners, oversew each one in the middle very *very* firmly. Bend the pipe cleaner at a sharp angle.

Free all the fur round the seams and brush it out in the right directions.

If you want to narrow the space between the eyes and create a slight indication of a bridge to his nose, ladder stitch above the nose for about 2 cm.



Tie a bow round his neck or put on a small collar and sit in front of the fire, watched by a white mouse.

MOUSE

My brother used to have a white mouse called Gertie when we were little – she was very family minded and produced lots of others and it would be simple to make a whole mouse clan, either all white or different colours.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Small square white felt
- ☐ Scraps of pink felt
- ☐ White, red or pink, and dark brown sewing cotton
- ☐ Tacking cotton
- ☐ 9 cm thick white piping cord
- ☐ Stuffing

MAKING UP

From one 22 cm square of white felt you could make at least four of these white mice. You can hand sew or machine the pieces together.

Trace the paper pattern and cut two bodies and two ears from the white felt and two ears from the pink felt.

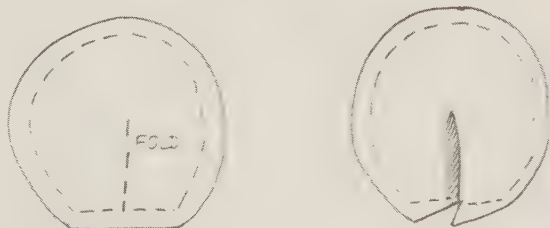
Machine or hand sew the body pieces together neatly from A round top to B.

Clip curves and corners, making sure not to cut through to the seam, and turn right side out.

Using dark brown cotton, embroider eyes with a few satin stitches and whiskers with three straight stitches (see page 11).

With red or pink cotton, oversew C to make a bobbly nose.

Sew the ears on with white cotton using one pink and one white piece for each. Make a tiny tuck in the middle.



Sew ears on with a few back stitches along the bottom row of stitching.

With white cotton, sew the cord into the seam for the tail. Knot the cord at the end.

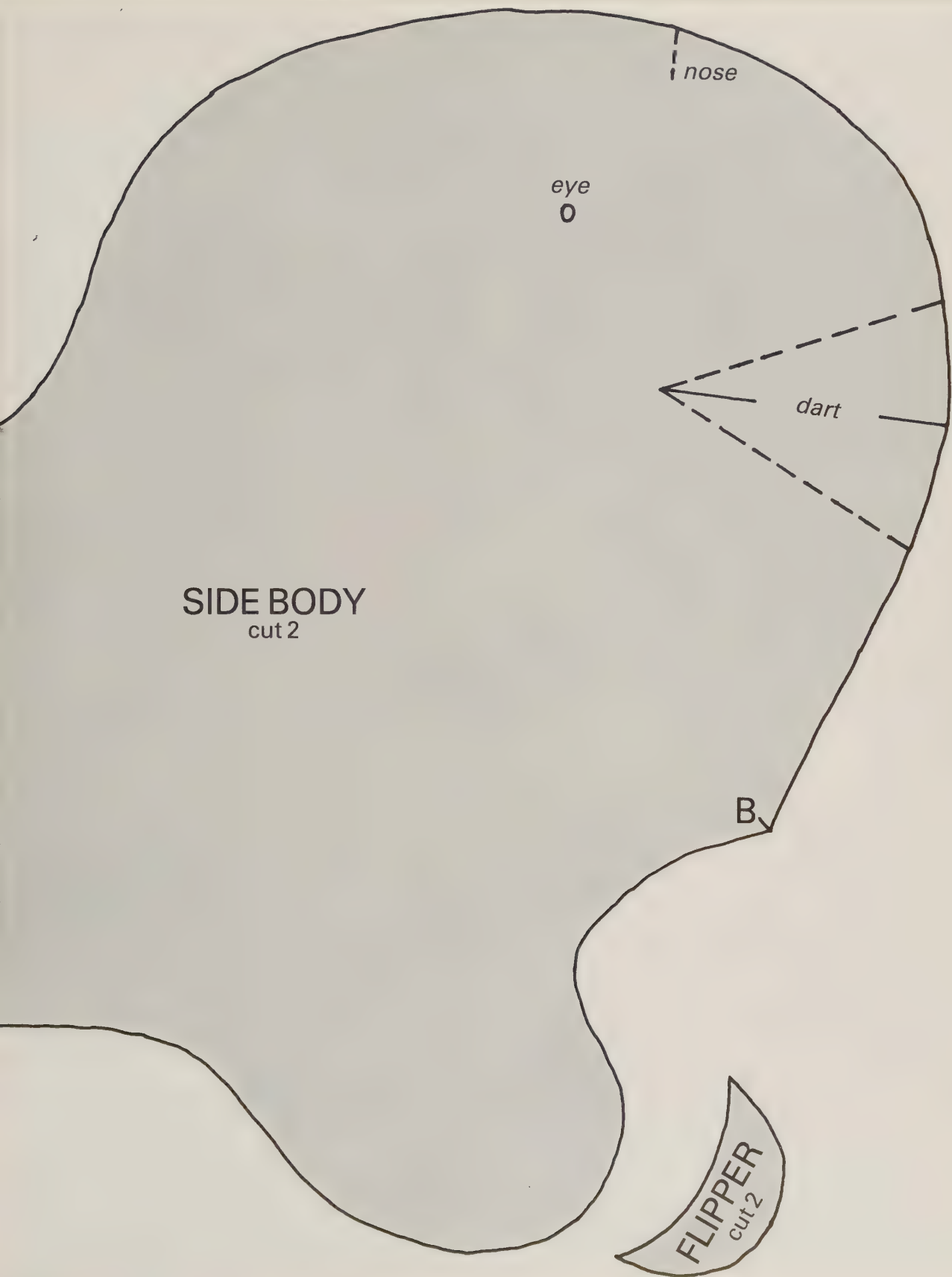
Stuff firmly and then sew up, oversew or ladder stitch.

Squash the mouse down a bit so that he will sit up properly.

SEAL

Add 7mm – 1cm seam
allowances on all edges except
folds







SEAL

My grandmother gave me that lovely book Seal Morning when I was little and I read it time and again. These nice chaps are straight out of there. The seals are very, very easy to make, and should not take more than two hours at the most. One baby seal is made from creamy fur fabric and his soft, doey eyes are trimmed with brown suede. His nose and flippers are made from scraps of the same. The other is made from some scraps in my rag-bag. They are close-pile furry stuff and I have no memory of buying them. Fleece is the nearest fabric. His eyes are outlined in black felt pen – to see how it worked – and his flippers are pink felt.

YOU WILL NEED (FOR EACH SEAL)

- ☐ 50 cm cream fur fabric
- ☐ 5 small pieces dark brown suede or pink felt
- ☐ 100 gm stuffing
- ☐ A pair of 15 mm safety eyes
- ☐ Brown and cream cotton
- ☐ Tacking cotton

PREPARATION

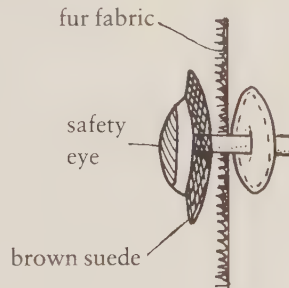
Trace pattern pieces, adding 7 mm–1 cm seam allowance, see page 10. Note all sewing/cutting instructions and letters. Cut one underbody and two side body pieces, remembering to reverse the pattern for the second side body piece.

MAKING UP

Join all fur fabric pieces wrong sides together; pin and tack before sewing. Join side body pieces together from A to B. Clip and trim seams.

Make the dart by folding on centre line and stitching along dotted line from point to point. Don't make the dart too wide.

Put eyes in as the drawing; you can leave this until just before stuffing if you prefer but you have to wiggle one hand up his body which is fiddly.



Join underbody to main body by stitching from C to B across each side.

Trim seams and clip curves.

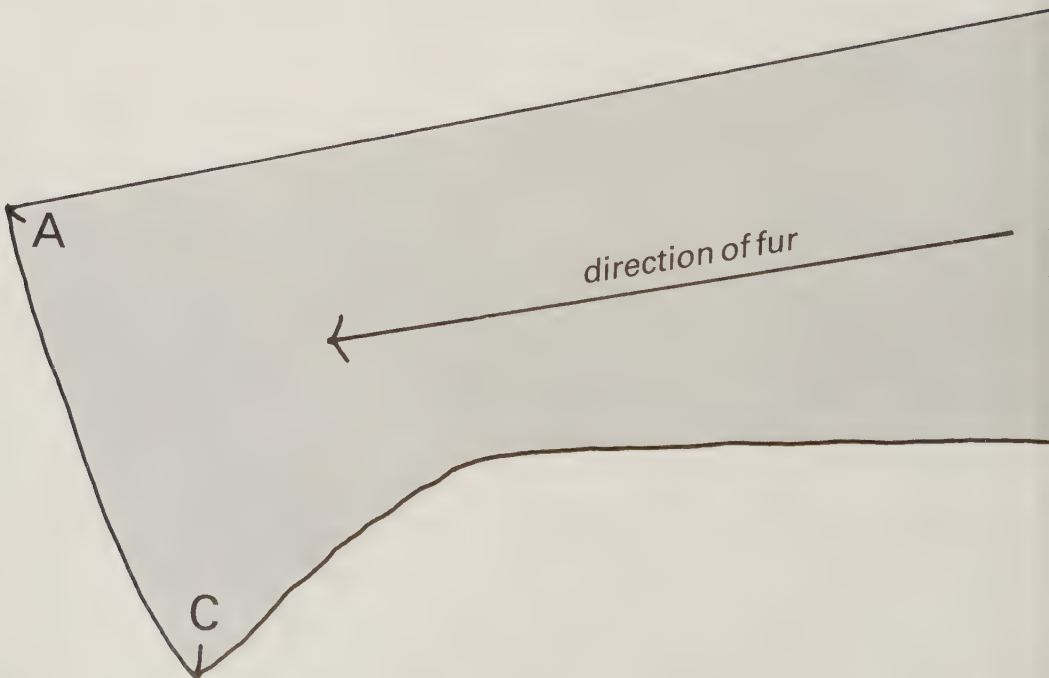
Turn through to right side and stuff lightly but firmly.

Hand stitch from C to C through A, across tail, to close, see page 11.

Glue and stitch nose in place. Sew brown flipper to each paw.

SEAL

*Add 7mm – 1cm seam
allowance on all edges except
folds*





EYE BACK
cut 2



NOSE
cut 1



UNDERBODY
cut 1

BENJAMIN RABBIT

This rabbit started off life in towelling, a fabric which did not bring out the best in him. Short white fur is infinitely more flattering; pink or blue towelling is ideal, however, for ears and paws. This soft and washable toy is perfect for a baby; it also fits in with many designs for nursery wallpaper. I made it for Jack Little, who was born on 14 April 1987, and who has a rabbit frieze in his attic nursery. Like most of my toys, he turned out slightly lopsided, but this seems appropriate for a loopy white rabbit – it was his nose that never quite made the middle of his face. He is simple to make; the only tricky bit is sewing on the base – which needs a little patience rather than great skill.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 25 cm white fur fabric – not too shaggy
- ☐ Remnants of pink/blue towelling for inside ears and paws
- ☐ Circle of pink/blue fur, 9 cm in diameter, for tail (or more towelling or white fur)
- ☐ White cotton for sewing; contrasting cotton for tacking
- ☐ 1 pair 15 mm safety eyes – I used blue
- ☐ About 125 gm washable stuffing
- ☐ Darning wool for nose and mouth
- ☐ Ribbon to trim

PREPARATION

Trace the pattern pieces, making sure to transfer the sewing instructions; in particular you will need to mark the letters. Cut out in the appropriate fabric. Remember that you will need two towelling ear shapes and two fur ones. Be careful to allow a seam allowance on each pink towelling paw and each white fur wrist. Add 7 mm to 1 cm on all edges except where fold line is marked (see page 10).

MAKING UP

Start by making his face. Join A to B to form his nose.

Now join his face gusset to his front gusset by sewing from C to C through B.

Stitch the front of the rabbit to each side body piece, by sewing from D to E on both sides.

Clip curves and snip into corners (see page 12).

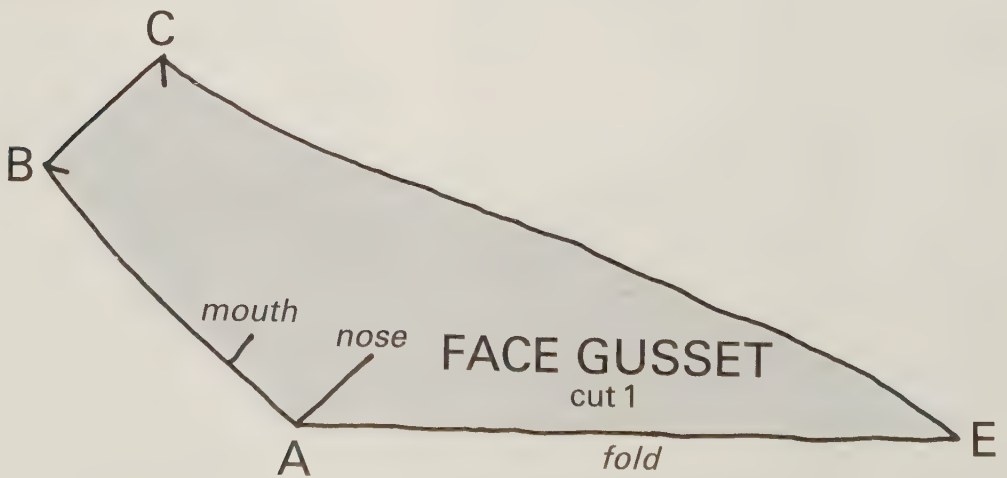
Join the rabbit down the back from his head E towards his tail F, leaving a good 7 cm (including the space for his tail) to stuff him.

Stitch the base to the body, matching points D, F and G. Pin and tack this carefully first – it is the only bit that can be bothersome.

Trim and clip seams.

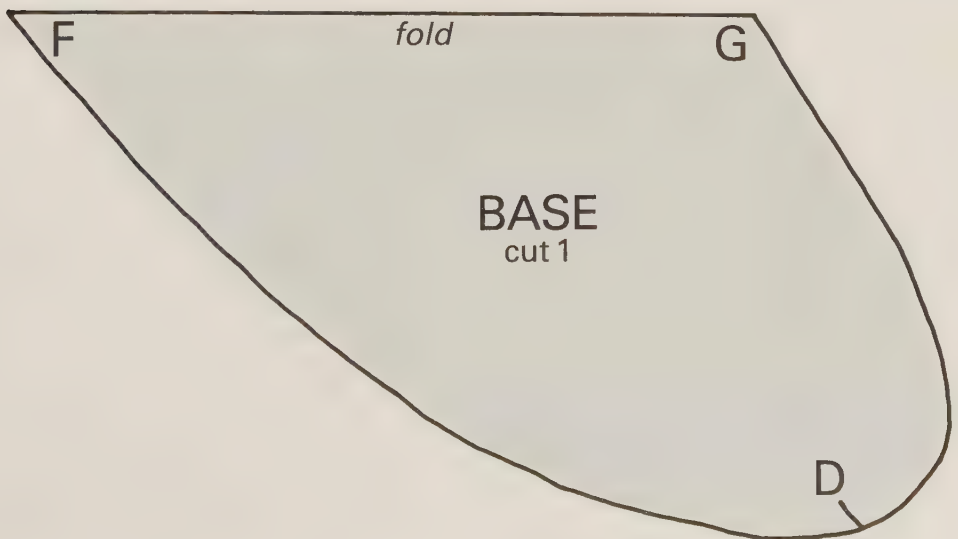
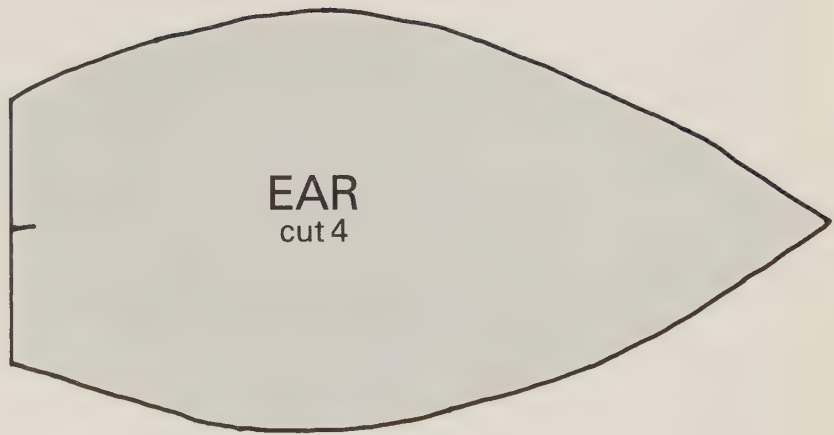
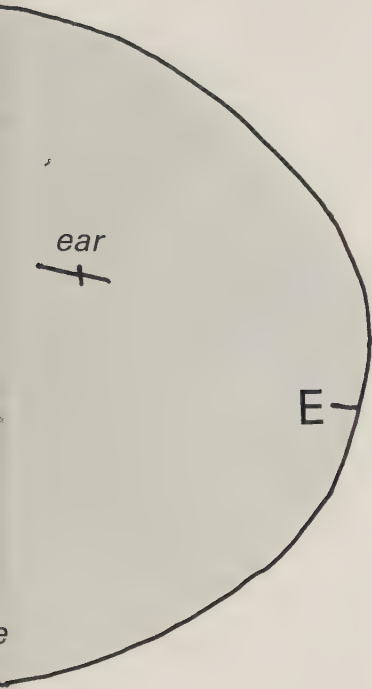
Turn through to right side, and position safety eyes – make a hole in the fabric with your

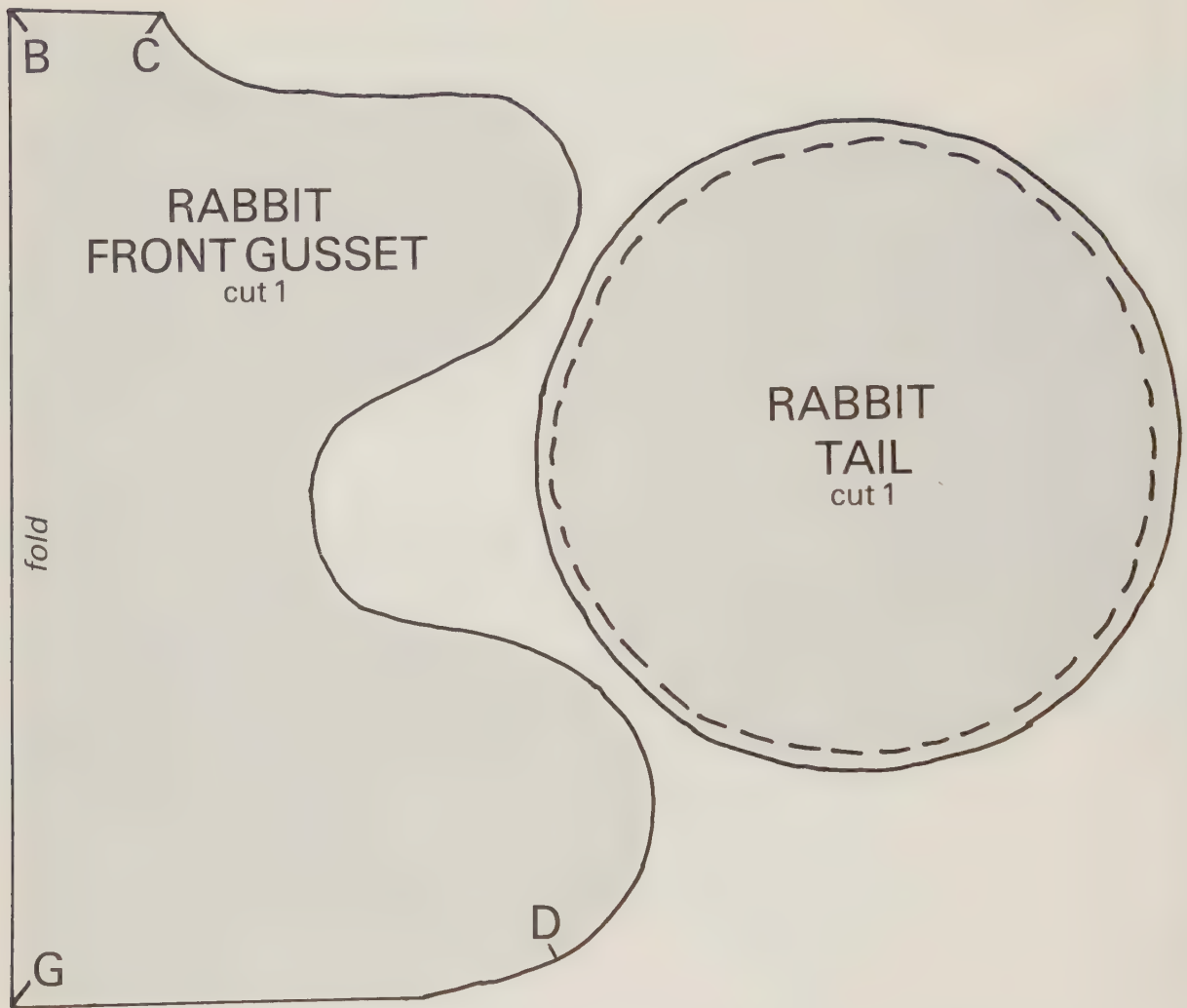




RABBIT

Add 7mm – 1cm seam allowance on all edges except folds





Quik Unpik and push the stalk of the eye through, fixing the washer securely at the back.

Then stuff the rabbit, moulding him carefully into shape.

Sew up the back neatly.

Now make his ears: with right sides together, join a towelling ear shape to a fur one to make the pair of ears. Stitch the two curved sides but don't sew up the base. Trim and clip seams and turn right side out.

Turn in the raw edges, pushing the towelling

slightly further up than the fur so that the fur overlaps the towelling. Slip stitch fur to towelling and then run a couple of long stitches along the base of the ears so that they fold round at the bottom like real rabbits' ears.

Sew the ears to the head, positioning them as you like best.

To make his powderpuff tail, run a gathering thread round the outside of the circle of fur fabric, push a small handful of stuffing in the middle and then draw up the thread. Sew firmly in position.

ELEPHANT

The little boy in the picture is David Hearn, who is 2. He adores elephants and cornflakes so there was no problem about persuading him to take part in this photograph, although he sometimes got a bit anxious about how fast the cornflakes were disappearing, usually into his tummy. He calls all elephants Nellie and says that Nellie is a he – so we all got very confused and 'it' doesn't have a name at the moment, except that a grown-up suggested it was really a new species called the Hog-A-Lump.

Whoever it is, this cuddly toy is very easy to make and quite quick, between three and four hours. If you have small children and want to make it entirely washable, substitute pink towelling for the felt. Because towelling frays, you will need to allow 7 mm to 1 cm seam allowance and turn in the edges of the tongue before you glue and sew it in place.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm fur fabric or other fabric
- ☐ 1 small square each of pink, blue and black (or grey) felt
- ☐ About 150 gm stuffing
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Grey, pink and black sewing cotton, blue and black embroidery silk
- ☐ Tacking cotton

PREPARATION

Trace the pattern pieces. There is no seam allowance on the pieces so remember to add at least 7 mm (see page 10). You will need to make a separate pattern for the underbody. Place each pattern piece, except the ears and feet, on the fabric. If you are using fur fabric (or patterned fabric), make certain that the fur (or pattern) is lying the right way.

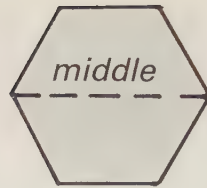
When you have cut out each piece, mark points A and B on the main body and the 'leave open' gap on the underbody with a chalk mark or a stitched cross. Reverse the pattern pieces

and lay on the material to cut out the pair for each piece. Take the ear pattern and cut out two pairs (four pieces) with the fur all lying in the same direction; the ear pattern is symmetrical so you need not reverse the paper pattern. From the scraps of pink felt, cut out four feet and mark with chalk or a stitch where shown. Cut out one piece for his mouth and put it somewhere safe – it is easy to lose being so small.

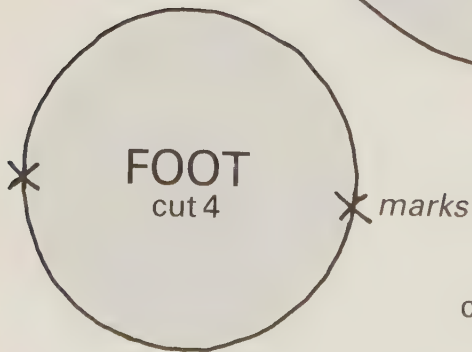
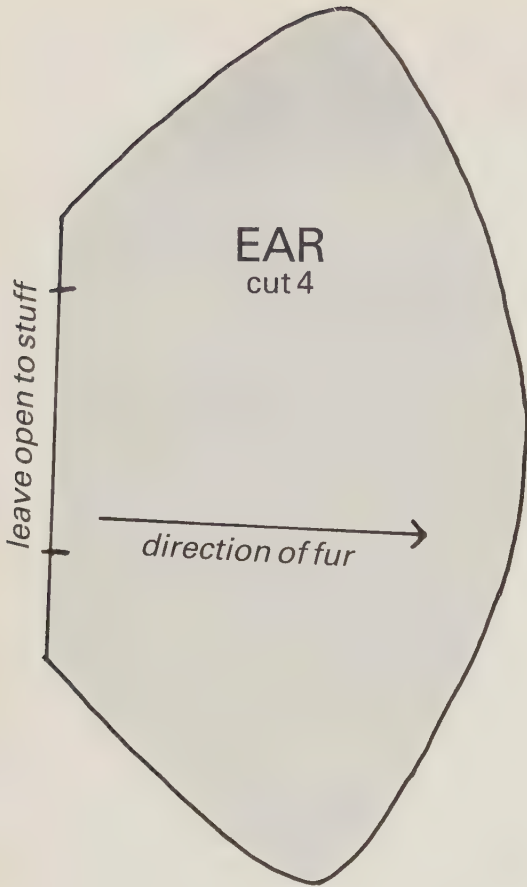
Tail From the black or grey felt, cut a rectangle



9 cm long and 5 cm wide. Spread glue on the top 5 cm of the long side and roll up tightly. Sew neatly down the edge to secure. With a small pair of scissors, cut the furled felt at the end in narrow strips about 0.5 cm wide.



TONGUE
cut 1




ELEPHANT

Add 7mm – 1cm seam allowance on all edges except folds

BODY
cut 2

direction of fur
or pile of fabric



B

leave open



UNDERBODY
cut 2



Eyes From the blue felt, cut out two small triangles. Put safely with mouth.



MAKING UP

Now start to sew up your elephant:

Join the elephant body pieces together from A to B over the top half of the shape.

Join his underbody from A to B on the curved seam, leaving an opening for stuffing where shown.

Reinforce the two curved seam lines on the main body from A to C with a row of machining.

Pin and tack underbody to main body starting at D, about 2 cm after A – this will be his mouth. When you have tacked, clip the seam allowance from A to C where you have reinforced it, you will then easily be able to machine the body to the underbody. Sew separately round each leg and up to point B. Stop when you come to each front foot, finish off and start again across his tummy, remembering to machine this on a curve. Finish off again at each back foot, and then machine up the back of his back legs. Stop just short of point B, finish off and sew in his tail with firm hand stitching through all the thicknesses of material. You should now have a whole elephant which just needs feet, mouth, eyes and stuffing.

Tack a foot pad to each leg, matching the two marks to the two side seams and sew by hand in back stitch with pink cotton, in a complete



circle overlapping stitching at beginning and end – this is fiddly but not difficult.

Clip into the corners and on the curved seams, being very careful not to clip through to the stitching. Then turn through to right side.

Stuff firmly, moulding into shape and stitch across the opening.

Join ears together along the curved edges, leaving them open along most of straight edge as shown on pattern.

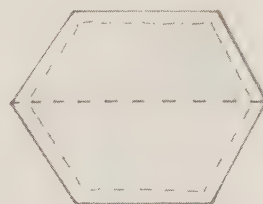
Clip on the curves and corners, turn through to the right side and stuff lightly. Turn in the raw edges and sew together using a running stitch. Pull this up slightly when you finish off, just enough to gather the ear into a slight curve. Sew firmly in position.

Don't worry too much about how you sew it: when the fur is teased out, the stitches don't really show.

Work out where you think his eyes look best and if you have used fur fabric for the elephant, snip the fur in that spot. You need two baldish spots to glue his eyes on. Oversew with blue thread. Embroider the triangle in satin stitch with blue embroidery silk.

Look at his mouth. Pull out the pointed bit which is the end of the two underbody pieces. You should have about 2 cm. This is his lower lip. Fold half of this back on itself – upwards and into his mouth to form the lip – and oversew all round with grey thread.

Take the six-sided mouth piece, and glue the back. Push it into his mouth as shown in the photo. Back stitch across the centre and then sew round the edges with pink thread. This all sounds complicated in writing but it is simple when you are looking at the real thing.



Free the fur round the seams and feed cornflakes.

KOALA

Sean Edgerton aged 4 has just returned to England; he spent all four years in Australia running round barefoot in the sun and cannot understand the cold and convention of an English upbringing. I made him this curious koala to cheer him up. I am none too certain what the real thing looks like so this is a personal view of a koala. All I know about koalas is how slow they are; they sit and blink in trees and even the blinking is an effort. Sewing the koala is relatively simple but does call for some creative pinning: If it is the first toy you make, take your time and read the instructions very carefully.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 50 cm grey fur fabric
- ☐ Small piece (about 15 cm by 20 cm) of pink fur fabric for face
- ☐ 2 small pieces of white fur fabric, about 12.5 cm square, for ears
- ☐ Small square or scraps of black felt for nose and paws
- ☐ About 150 gm stuffing
- ☐ Pair of 15 mm safety eyes
- ☐ Grey, white and pink sewing cottons; tacking thread

PREPARATION

Trace the pattern pieces and add 7 mm to 1 cm seam allowances (see page 10). Note all instructions and letters carefully.

Cut out pattern pieces and mark as necessary.

MAKING UP

Sew all pieces of fur fabric with wrong sides together, pinning and tacking before stitching.

Start by sewing the ears on to the front face, from A to B on both sides. Then join the back of the head to the front from C to C through B,A,A,B.

Sew on his black felt nose using blanket stitch or back stitch, inserting a little stuffing just before you finish sewing up.

Put in his safety eyes: unpick a stitch in the fabric on either side of his nose, insert the stalks of the eyes and fasten the washers firmly on the back.

Now his head is finished, move on to his body.

Join the two back side pieces down the straight sides from D to E, but leave a space of at least 7 cm for stuffing the koala.

Take the base piece and match E to E; sew the base to the back all round the curved side, from F to F through E.

Now take the front gusset, match the centre mark on the bottom to the centre of the base and stitch along that line until the base is sewn along the front from F to F.

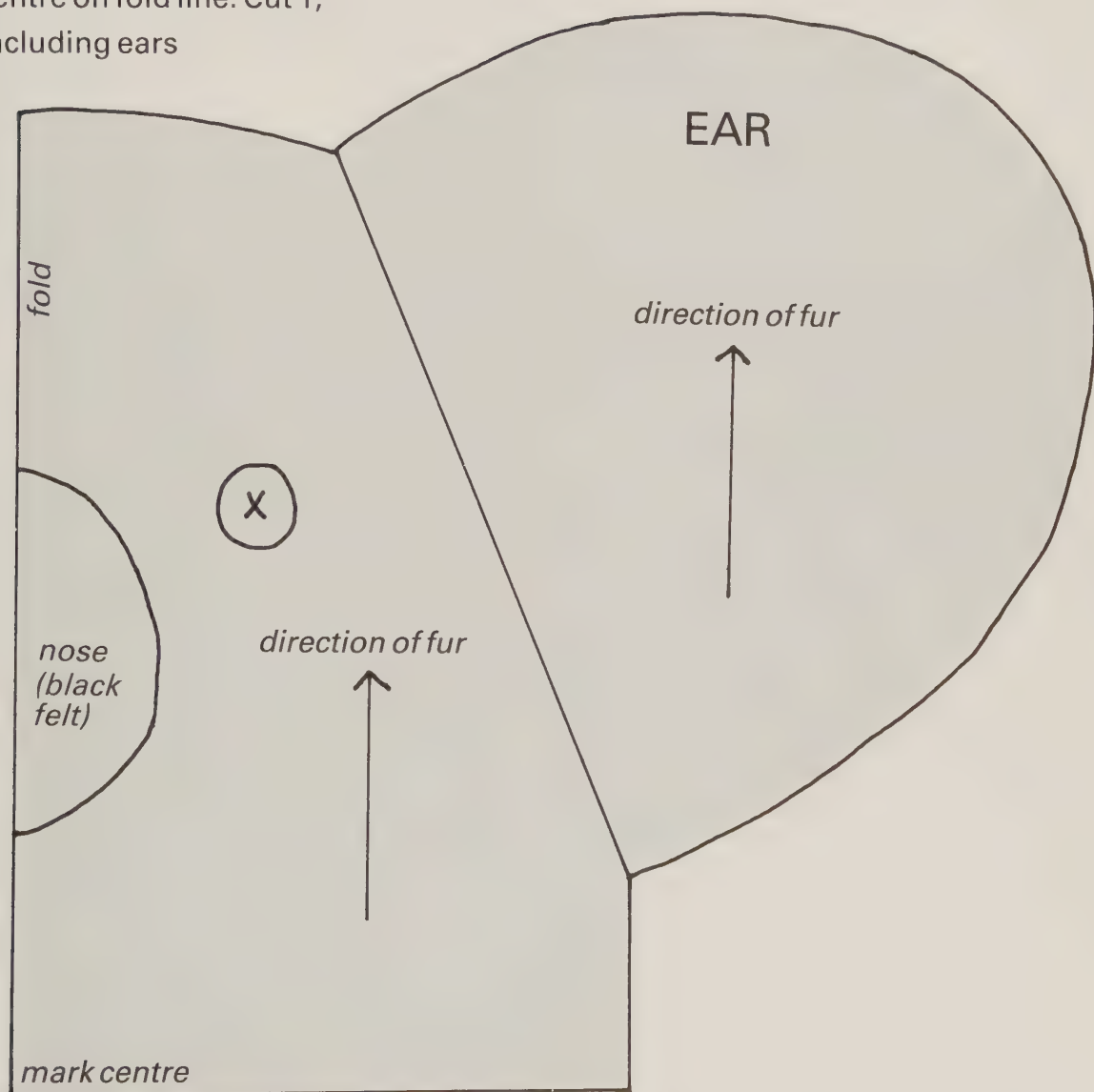
Cut four rectangles of black felt, 2.5 cm by 2 cm, and pin the longer side into each paw seam. Most of the felt should be on the inside of the koala, so that when you turn it right side

KOALA

For back of head: place on double fabric, centre on fold line. Cut 1, including ears

For face: cut pattern into ear and face.

Place ear on single fabric; cut 2 (reverse for pair). Place face on double fabric, centre on fold line and cut 1

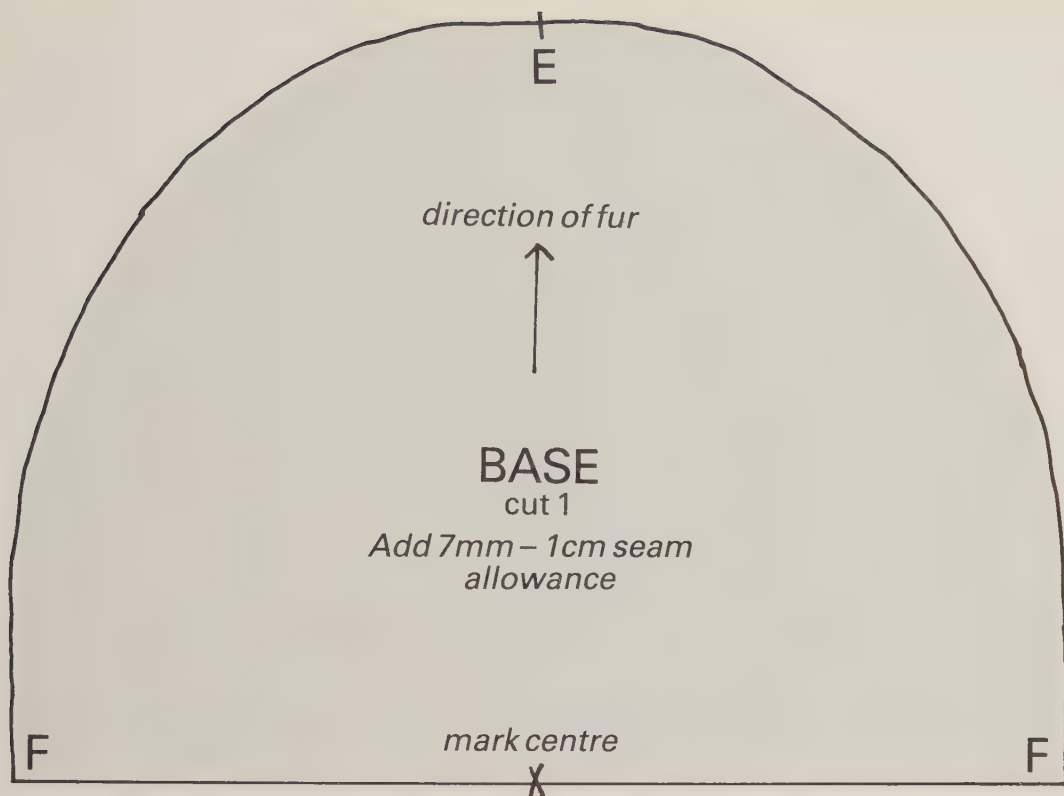


out, the black felt ends up appearing out of his paws.

Now sew up either side of the bear from F to G on both sides: that is, from the corners of the base on either side, round his legs, tummy and arms to his shoulders. You will find that the

seams join quite happily when you pin them if you have joined the base to the back and front first – though it was difficult to make it work when I tried it another way round. You should now have a bear body, with a rounded back and two sticking out arms and legs, sitting on a base.





The next thing is to join the body to the head.

Don't try and match up the side seams of head and body; the bear's rounded back depends on having a narrower front than back, so the side seams of the body will not match the head side seams – they will be further round towards his chest.

I found it difficult to sew all round the head/body seam in one go; it was simpler to sew from G to G via D, that is shoulder to shoulder via the back, and then sew the front face to the front body. Where the layers of fabric at seam junctions were too thick for the machine to take comfortably, I finished the seams by hand.

Clip and cut all curved seams and into corners and turn the koala right side out.

Now you can stuff your koala. Start by stuffing the ears lightly and then sew across the AB line on either side. Stuff his paws next and then his head and body. Sew up the back by hand.

Use a small pair of scissors to trim the rectangles of black felt on his paws into fingers. Curious the Koala had four fingers per hand, which may be wrong but looks fine.

Brush out the fur round the seams with a wire brush or needle.

E

leave open to stuff

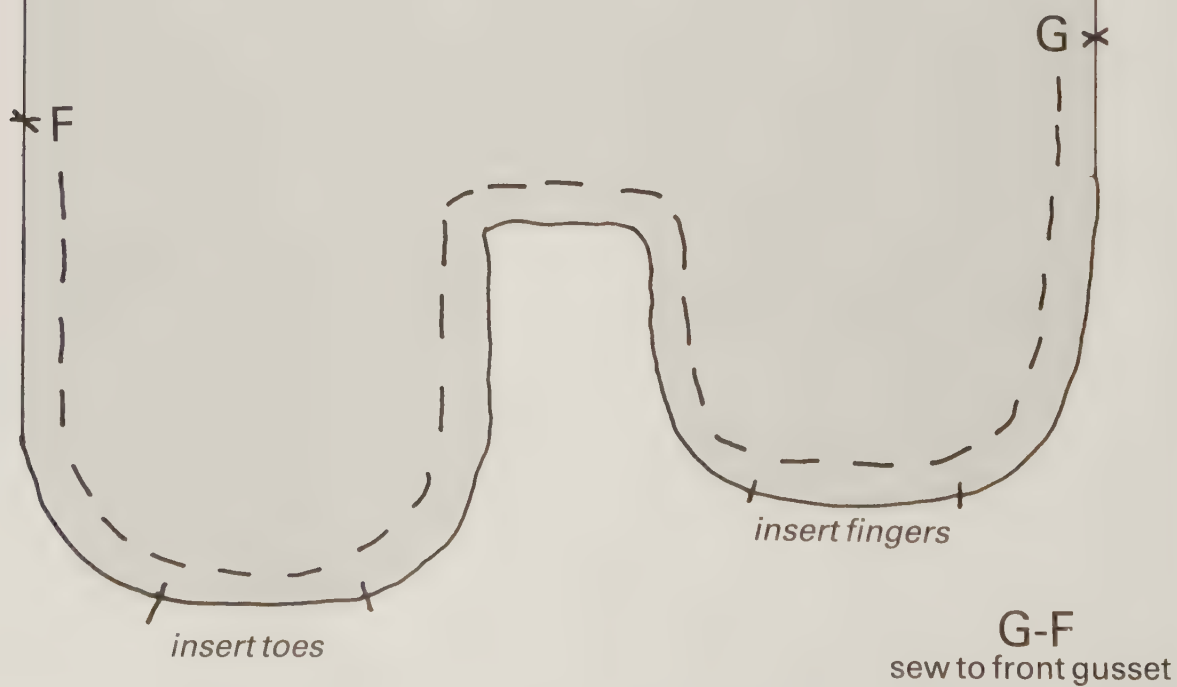
D

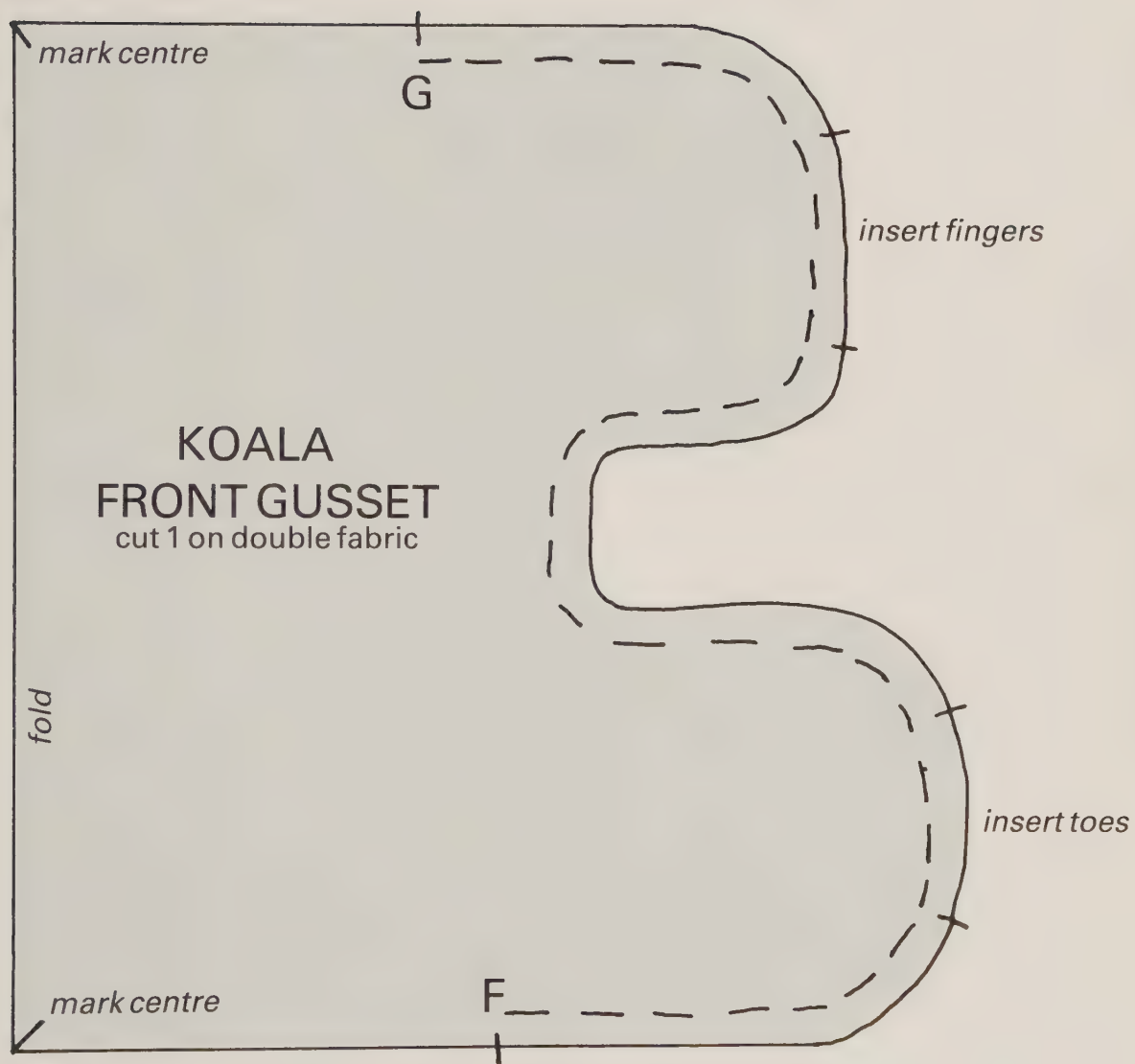
KOALA

BACK

cut 2 (reverse for pair)

*add 7mm – 1cm seam allowance
except on fold*





CROCODILE OVEN GLOVE PUPPET

*Rory and Sean's mother
left a frantic message on the answerphone
one day, saying she had urgent news. The news
was that Rory's most successful birthday present was an
animal oven glove, which appeared round doors and leapt out
and frightened grown-ups and ate them up. The only minor problem
was the size, it was a bit big for small hands. What about making up a
pattern for a smaller version and putting it in this book? This one fits the three-
to-five-year-olds who tried it and you can just alter the top stitching to make it
bigger for older children. It is stunningly easy to make and you can use scraps of
old dressing-gowns or anything similar if you don't want to go out shopping.
All the amounts are variable – just use whatever you prefer or have
available for any bit of the puppet. If you buy the quilting, you will
probably have to settle for a third of a metre of each sort
since shops don't readily deal in less.
You can make lots of different animal oven gloves
from this basic idea.*

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 20 cm length dingy green quilting
- ☐ 20 cm length pink quilting
- ☐ 1 pair of approx 2.5 cm rolling safety eyes
- ☐ Small (20 cm) square white felt
- ☐ Small (20 cm) square red felt
- ☐ Scraps black and yellow felt
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Matching cotton for sewing; contrasting cotton for tacking

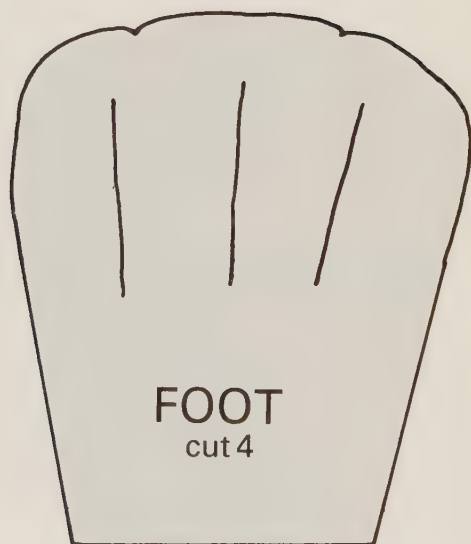
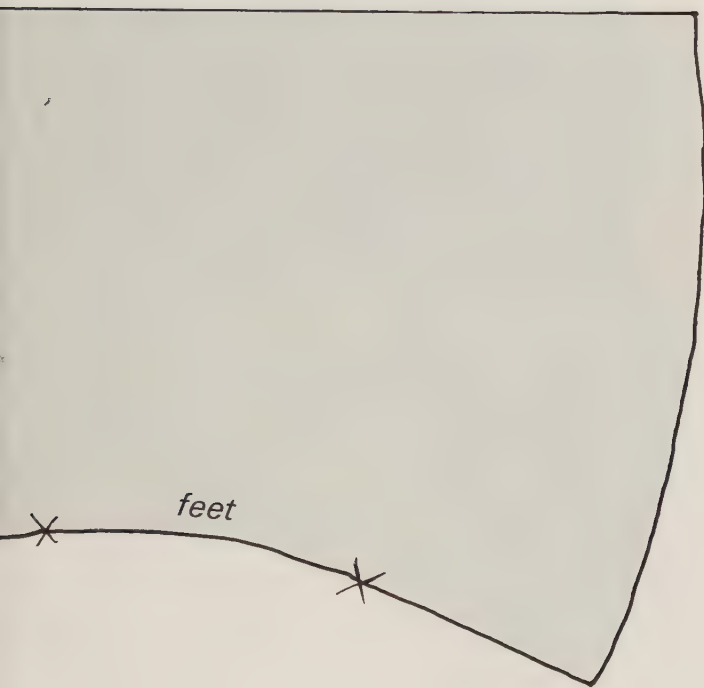
PREPARATION

Trace the pattern pieces and cut out the pieces of fabric; add seam allowance of 5 to 7 mm to quilting only, not to felt pieces. You should have one top head, one underside, and two feet in green; inside mouth and two feet in pink; inside mouth in red felt; band of teeth in white felt; one black felt diamond and one smaller yellow felt diamond.



CROCODILE OVEN GLOVE PUPPET









Cut down the red felt inside mouth by 1 cm so that it fits on to this line, and glue.



MAKING UP

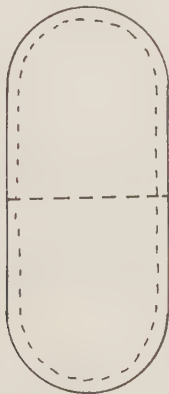
Make the feet first. Right sides together, stitch green and pink feet in pairs. Stitch where shown on the pattern.

Right sides together, pin and tack the jaws into the top and under pieces.

Pin and tack the top and under pieces together, inserting the feet where indicated on the pattern and then stitch. Cut and clip the curved seams and turn right side out. Turn the raw wrist edge in and stitch – I zigzagged it on the machine.

Oversew a ridge about 4 cm long up the croc's face from his nose towards his eyes.

Glue the zigzaggy oval shape which makes up the crocodilic dentures on to the outside rim of the red felt. Slip stitch these down if the toy is for young children.



Insert the eyes: make small holes in the fabric first to put the stalks in, then fix on the washers securely.

Glue and stitch the black and yellow diamonds on his forehead. That's it.

Open his mouth and topstitch round the inside of the mouth piece, about 1 cm in from the edge, but try it on your child for size before sewing down – you can adjust it at this stage.

LITTLE HORSE

This is a traditional nursery toy, made out of felt. I don't know exactly why it has such charm but everyone loves it. The pattern came from the octogenarian mother of an old friend. She made toys all her life, immaculately sewn with the tiniest of stitches. Sadly I never met her before she died, so I only know her through the toys which have been lent to me for inspiration. You can machine this toy, in which case add 5 mm seam allowance to the basic pattern, but I prefer to hand sew it in blanket stitch – it is soothing and simple. Don't overstuff the horse or the seam junctions may weaken.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 2 small (22 cm) felt squares
- ☐ Contrasting cotton
- ☐ Ric-rac or felt in contrasting colour for mane and tail
- ☐ Stuffing

PREPARATION

Trace the paper pattern pieces: one whole horse, one gusset.

Cut out two whole horse patterns and two gussets.

MAKING UP

Sew the gusset pieces together from A to B.

Sew the two horse pieces to the gussets – back, front and all four legs. Do not sew over the hooves. Finish off very securely at A and B, oversewing them with a few small stitches.

Cut out four circles of felt 2.5 cm in diameter and stitch into the feet.

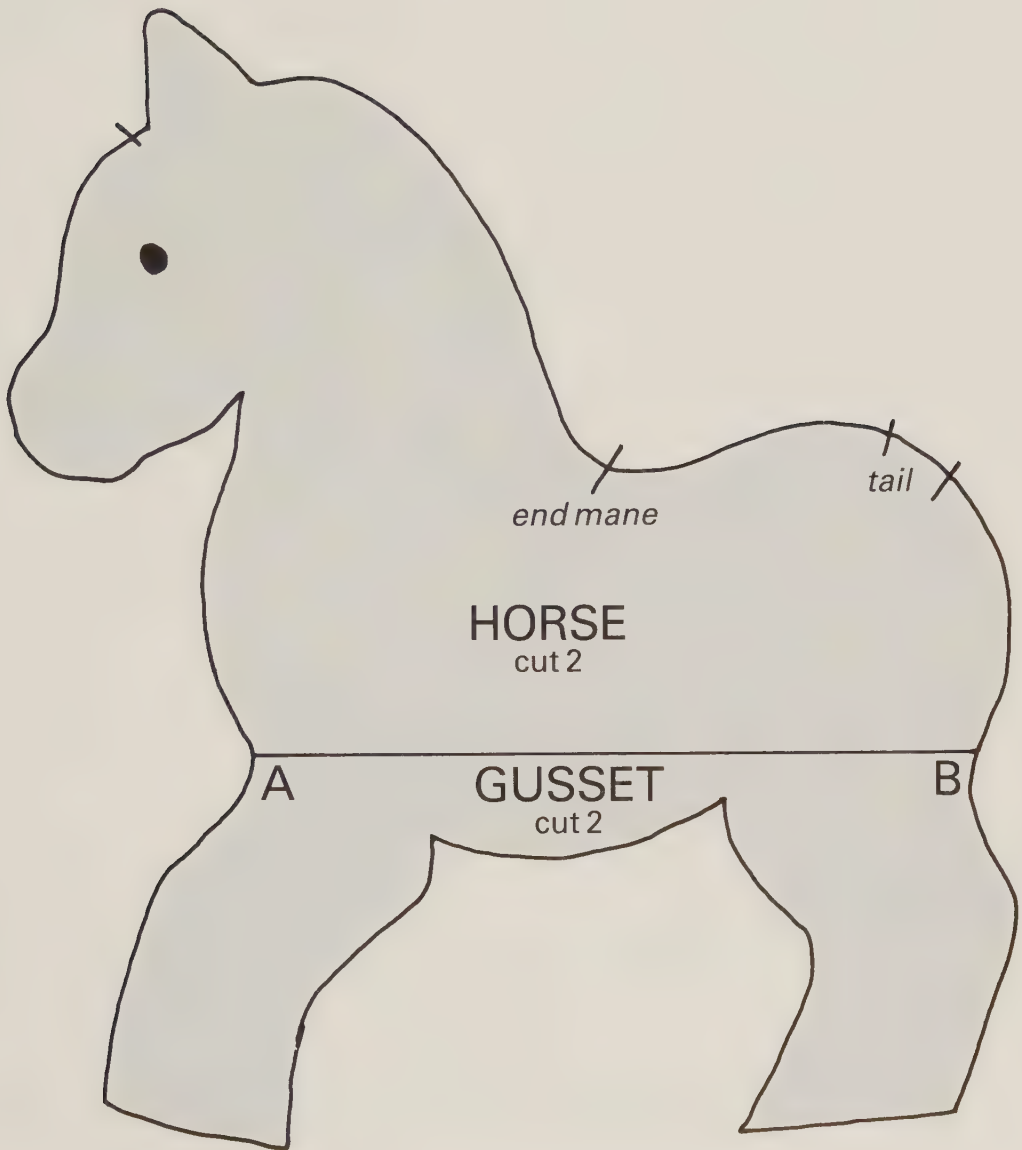
Stuff the feet and legs now before you finish sewing up the horse. If you leave it until later, you will find it much more difficult.

Now finish sewing up the horse, leaving a gap from the forelock to the base of the mane and a gap of 1 cm for the tail.

Stuff the rest of the horse lightly but firmly, pushing the stuffing down into his nose. Don't be tempted to overstuff the horse or the legs will stick out at extraordinary angles. Mould the body as you go along.

Cut a 1 cm square piece of felt for the forelock and sew it in to the horse with tiny stitches. Take a small piece of ric-rac, just over double the width of the forelock, and fold it in half. Put it round the forelock, inserting the raw edges into the ears. By hand, stitch round the base of the ric-rac and stitch the bit which is in the horse's ear.

LITTLE HORSE



The next stage will close up the felt horse, so if you want to push in any more stuffing at the last minute, do so now.

Cut two long fans of felt about 2 cms deep – the base should be the same length as the mane from ear to shoulder, and it should fan out slightly at the sides. Sew these two pieces into the neck, thus closing up the horse.

Cut a length of ric-rac just over double the length of the mane. Fold it in half and put the fold at the top of the mane just behind the ears. Using matching thread, slip stitch the ric-rac to the felt neck down each side. Finish off by turning the ric-rac in at the end and oversewing together.

Fringe the mane and forelock.

Make the tail with a square of blue felt, about 5 cm across. Roll it round tightly and sew up for about 1 cm. Insert the tail, using back stitch (instead of blanket stitch) to sew it in. Fringe the tail using small scissors.

Sew round the ears with blanket stitch. Strengthen the seam junctions at back and front with a few overstitches, which will also stop the legs splaying.

Sew his eyes with satin stitch or put on a sequin either side. Trim the little horse with a bridle and rosette if you wish.



THE SWIMMING POOL GAME

*This is a fishy game,
played like draughts. The board is chipboard painted like a
blue swimming pool. The counters are red goldfish and yellow
dolphins. Their tails are wired with pipe-cleaners so that the dolphins
can leap and the goldfish curl their tails over their backs. These are simple
enough to be made by children. When a fish
reaches the other side, his important new status is shown by safety- pinning
a tiny fish to his body. I bought little metal minnows at the Hobby
Horse, but you could make flat felt fish or coloured cardboard
cut-outs. The best safety pins are those tiny gold ones which
usually come from the laundry.*

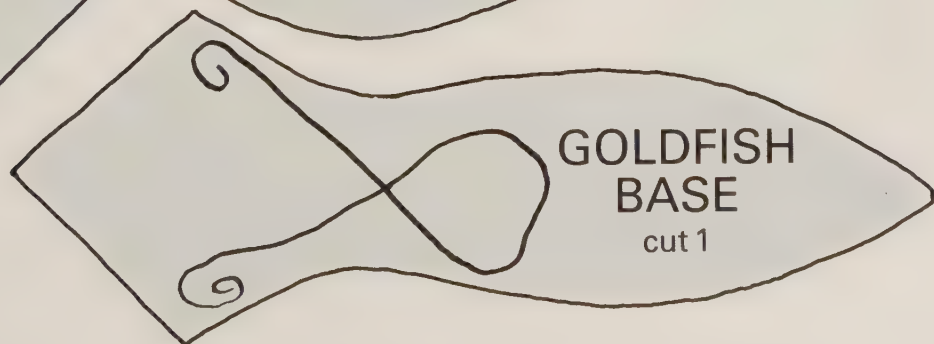
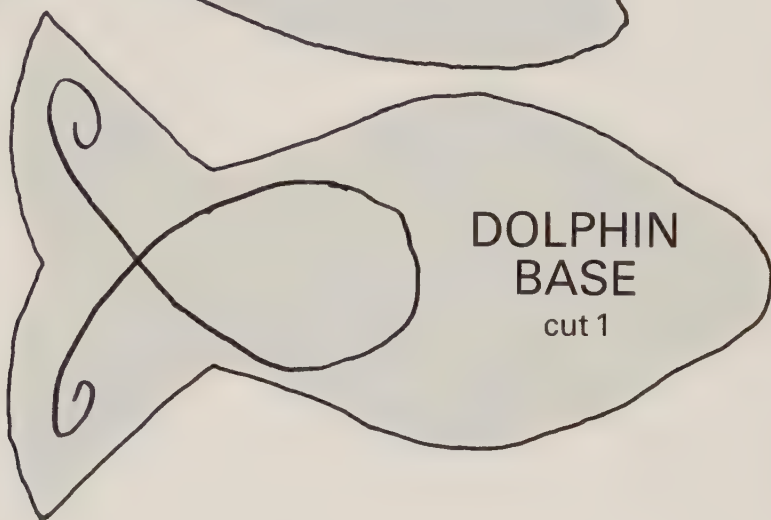
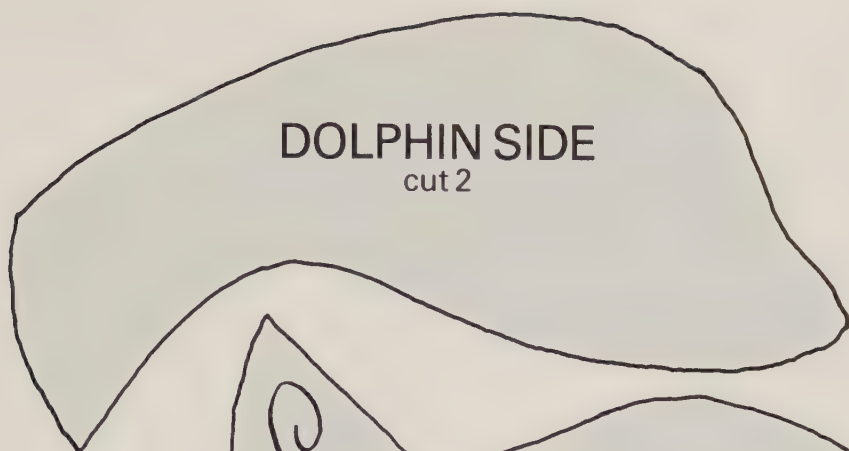
DOLPHINS AND GOLDFISH

You should be able to cut out four sets of three pieces from one 20 cm square of felt. You will need twelve of each fish, so you need three squares each of yellow and red felt. You will also need thread, stuffing and trimmings. Tack and then sew the fish together, leaving a 4 cm gap along his spine. I blanket stitched the fishes in metallic thread, available from craft shops. You could back stitch the seams if you prefer and/or use ordinary coloured cotton; I found machining was too time-consuming to be

worthwhile on these fiddly-sized objects but you may be more deft. Don't try and glue the edges – the seams split when you put in the stuffing. Insert the pipe cleaners, as shown in the patterns opposite.

Stuff lightly but firmly and continue sewing up.

Then decorate as you wish with sequins, buttons, etc. It is well worth sewing these in place rather than using glue, which discolours the metallic finish and is less secure.





THE BOARD

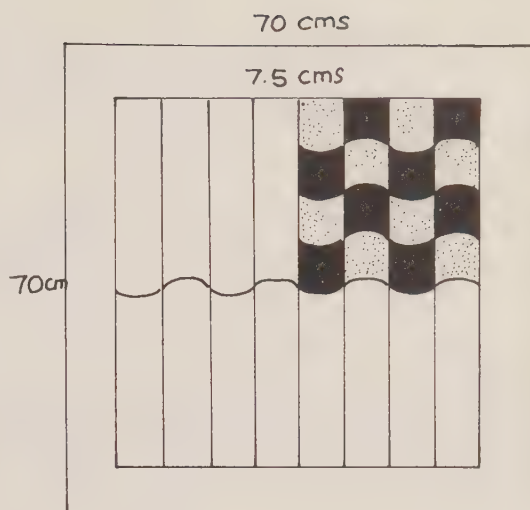
YOU WILL NEED

- ❑ 70 cm square of 1 cm chipboard (from your local timber merchant)
- ❑ Small pots of gloss paint in two blues, light and dark
- ❑ Small pot black lacquer or black gloss paint
- ❑ 3 paint brushes

NOTE

Prime the chipboard with wood primer before you start painting or you will find, as I did, that the paint sinks relentlessly into the board and you have to do two coats of everything.

Using a ruler, make a border of 3.75 cm round the board. Divide the remaining centre square into 64 7.5 cm squares. Leave the vertical lines straight but make the horizontals wavy.



Paint the board in alternate squares of light blue and dark blue gloss paint. Wait until the first colour is dry before you start the second.

Paint the border with the black lacquer when the centre is dry.



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

You can make ravishing decorations very simply with felt and sparkly trimmings like sequins. I should warn you that the more I became carried away with beautifying the basic shape, the longer it took, but the decorations can be packed away to last from year to year so you can justify the hours of stitching as long term planning. Children can use the patterns to make their own decorations and the same patterns can be used to make cards, invitations, party presents, mobiles etc. How much and exactly what kind of trimming you use is really a matter of what is easily available and how much time you have. The patterns are intended as guides only; you could let your imagination run riot. You could also use other basic shapes and treat them in the same way. Valerie Mangold gave me unstinting help with ideas for these decorations and Annie Lickett produced the basic pattern for the adorable clown.

The total effect can be seen at the front of the book

FELT TOYS

YOU WILL NEED

- Felt, stuffing (cotton wool is fine), coloured cottons, metallic thread, sequins, feathers, beads

NOTE

The birds, butterfly and Christmas trees are pairs of shapes, cut out, stitched up and lightly stuffed. Don't try and glue the felt pieces together if you want to stuff them – it doesn't work.

Felt is available in the most gorgeous bright colours. I found that the dark colours were invariably disappointing for decorations because they look dull. Yellows, pinks, reds, whites, greens and the brighter blues were the most rewarding.

I preferred to sew up most of the toys by hand in blanket stitch using metallic thread. A spool of this is an expensive outlay, but it gives a wonderful finish to the toys and is also useful for making loops to hang them on the tree.

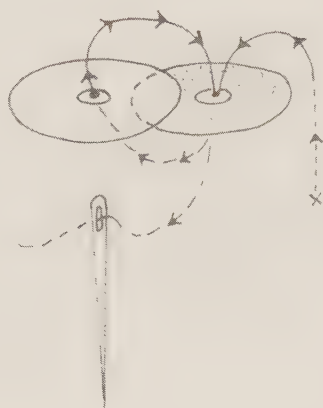


Sequins, which are available in lots of different shapes and sizes, are instant pzazz, easily available and well worth the trouble of fixing them on. If you want to sew sequins round the edge of a toy, machine or back stitch the edges and then apply the sequins on top. It looks better if you use invisible thread.

It took me ages to work out what seems the most efficient way to sew on sequins so the details are below, in the hope of saving you time.

Lay the first sequin in place; bring your single-threaded needle up from the underside of the fabric through the centre hole, push the needle down to the middle right of the sequin (if you are sewing from left to right). The sequins overlap so bring your needle up middle left of the first sequin and through the centre of the next one; push the

needle through the centre of the preceding sequin, take the thread underneath to the left centre of the current sequin, then through the centre of the next and so on.



This keeps the sequins securely anchored and you develop a rhythm to work to. Sewing on sequins is slow but tranquil work. The alternative way of fixing them if you are in a rush is to glue them on. This works well in the short term, but they may fall off and the glue tends to discolour the sequins.

BIRDS OF PEACE

Cut out the pattern and lay it on a double thickness of felt. You can make two birds out of a small (20 cm) square, folded in half, four birds from two squares laid one on top of the other.

Handstitch or machine the edges together, leaving a 4 cm gap in the bird's tummy so that you can push a little stuffing in. Stuff lightly and sew up. Then start decorating as you wish. The leaves in their mouths and the feathers on the white bird came from a very ancient bunch of flowers which had adorned my standard going-to-weddings hat.



BABY TEDDY BEAR

For the prototype bear I used contrasting yellow and red felt for back and front, blanket-stitched in gold thread. Sew up his body first, stuff lightly and then sew up his head – you can put a tiny bit of stuffing in his head just before you finish. Remember to sew in the loop.

His eyes are cross-stitched in pale blue cotton, his nose is three tiny satin stitches and his mouth is a feather stitch, both in dark blue cotton (see page 11 for these stitches).

He is trimmed with 15 cm of very narrow blue ribbon, a yellow rosebud and three sequins on his tummy.



MINIATURE CHRISTMAS TREES

Each side takes up a quarter of one of those small squares of felt. You will also need one small square or some scraps of red felt for the pot. I made both white and green trees in red pots, trimmed with anything I had to hand: bows, buttons, sequins, beads, felt presents etc.

Make the red flowerpot first and stuff it lightly, then insert it between the folds of the tree and sew across the base through the four thicknesses of felt. Sew up both sides, either by hand or machine to the top pair of branches, then stuff the tree lightly. Finish sewing up the sides of the tree. Decorate as you wish.

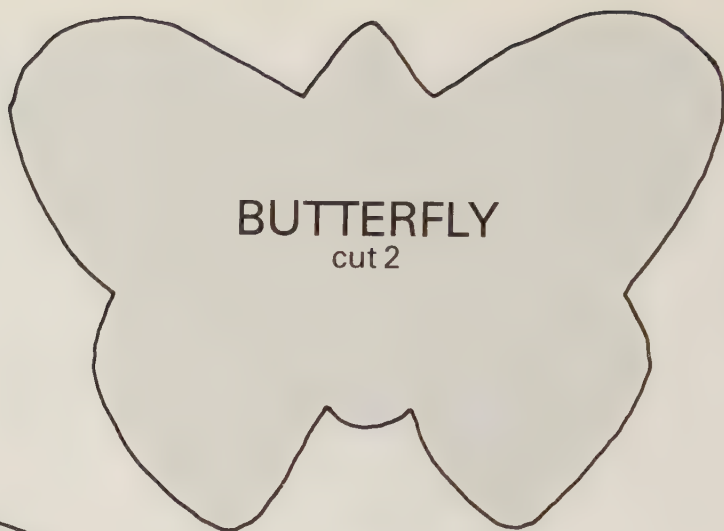
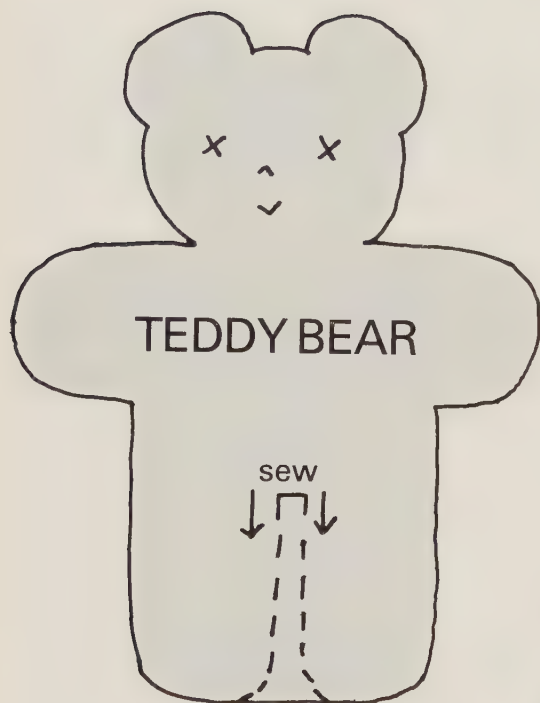


BUTTERFLY

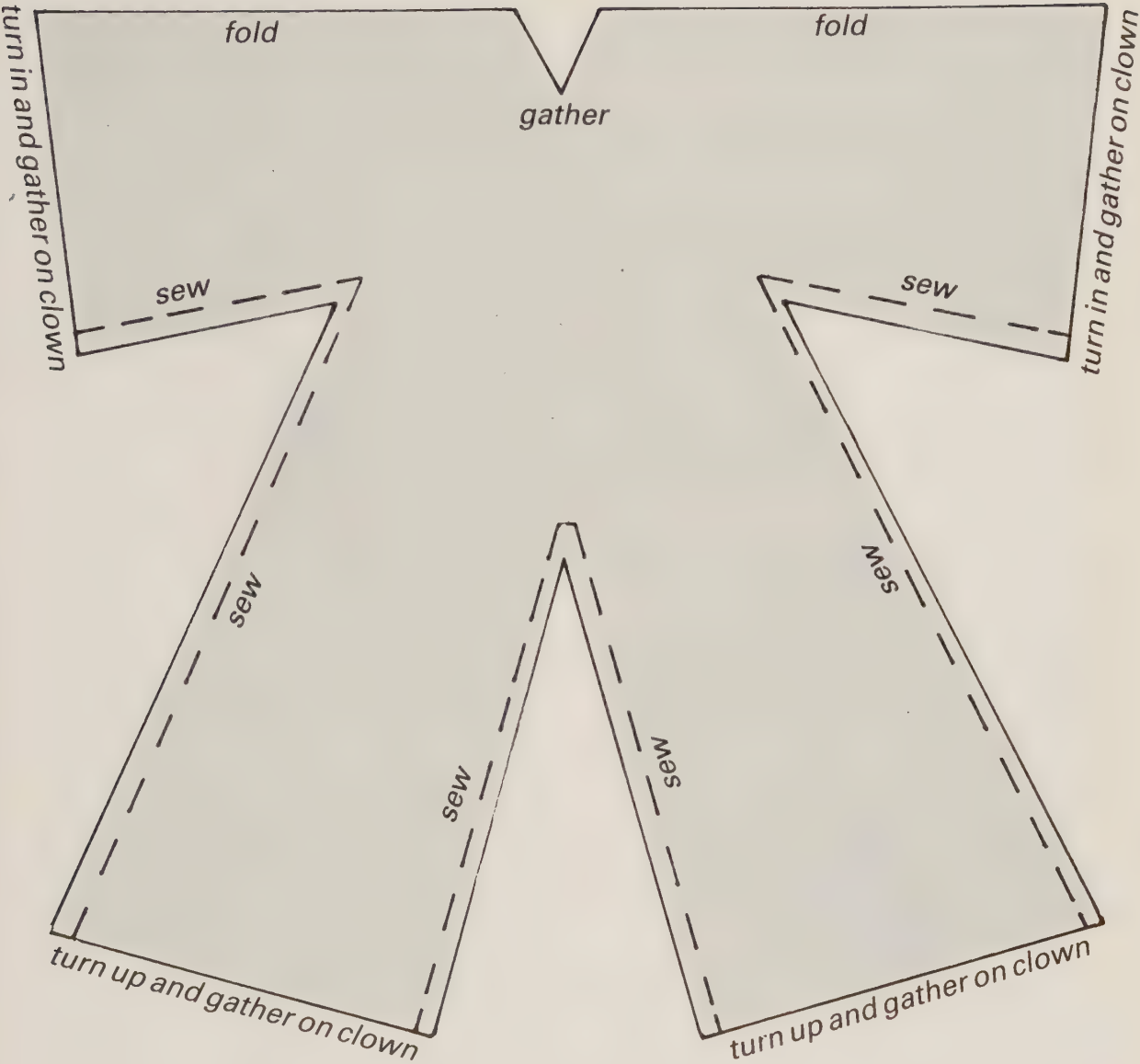
This is made in exactly the same way as the bird and the bear. Cut out the shape twice; sew up all but 4 cm across the top, stuff lightly and then finish sewing, remember to sew in a loop before finishing. Sew along the two body lines; you can draw these partly together in ladder stitch (see page 11) if you want to give the butterfly a more interesting shape – but it is not absolutely necessary. The eyes and antennae are indicated by a little silver bow which seemed a rather cunning idea; make certain the bow is securely stitched on.

Decorate with masses of sequins and beads.



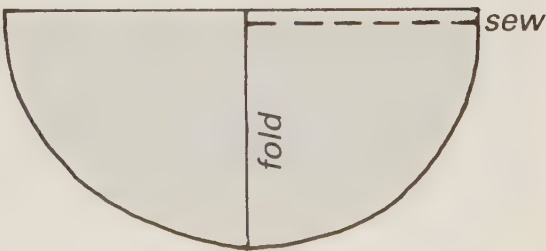


CLOWN COSTUME



sew before fitting on clown; turn in and gather after fitting

HAT



CLOWN

YOU WILL NEED

- 30 cm square of bright cotton material
- Matching cotton
- Scrap of felt 6 cm by 4 cm for hat
- 3 cm diameter polystyrene ball with hole at base (available from Dryad)
- 3 pipe cleaners
- 18 cm of 2.5 cm wide ribbon or lace for ruff
- 15 cm of fairly narrow (about 1 cm) wide ribbon for waist
- Narrow ribbon or metallic thread for loop

MAKING UP

Make the clown's figure by inserting two of the pipe cleaners into the hole in the base of the polystyrene ball.

Twist the two pipe cleaners together a couple of times and then separate to form the legs. Make a little foot at the end of each leg by twisting the pipe cleaner in a circle, flat to the ground. Make the arms with the single pipe cleaner. Bend it in half; twist the 'arms' round the neck twice and then stretch out either side; turn the ends over to make hands.

Fold the material in half to make two 15 cm squares; lay the pattern on the fabric with the shoulders on the fold as indicated. Cut out the costume. With wrong sides together, sew along seam lines by machine or back stitch by hand.

Turn right side out.

Slip clown's body into costume from top. It will look enormous but don't worry – it needs to be baggy.

Turn over wrists and ankles, about 1 cm, and sew with running stitch. Gather tightly and secure with two or three small stitches. Sew with running stitch round neck, gather and finish off.

Sew the ends of the ribbon or lace ruff together with the edges on the wrong side. Run a gathering thread round one edge, slip the ruff over the clown's head with the stitching closest to his neck and pull up the thread. Finish off with two or three small stitches.



Cut the hat pattern out of felt or other stiff material. Fold into cone and sew along dotted line, with small back stitches. Insert thread or ribbon for loop and stitch securely in place. Spread glue round clown's head and stick hat on, with loop out.

Tie bow at waist and stitch once or twice through the knot so that it stays secure.

With fine black felt-tip pen, draw on features as shown in the drawing.



FATHER CHRISTMAS

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ 6 cm square scrap of red felt
- ☐ Red cotton
- ☐ 10 cm narrow ribbon *or* metallic thread for loop
- ☐ Cotton wool *or* stuffing
- ☐ Glue
- ☒ Walnut or fircone
- ☐ Gold poster paint and small brush

MAKING UP

This simple Father Christmas gives enormous pleasure to children partly because they can make him so quickly. The base is a walnut or fircone painted with gold poster paint (this is non-toxic, in case you are worried). When this has dried, glue on a red felt cone stitched in the same way as the clown hat with a loop popping out of the top. Spread a line of glue round the junction of the walnut (or fircone) and red hat. Roll a little cotton wool or stuffing into a sausage and stick it on to the toy. That's that.



HOBBY HORSE PENCIL

This costs very little to make but looks wonderfully extravagant. It is an ideal Christmas tree or party present.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Scraps of shiny material big enough to make two horsehead outlines
- ☐ Stuffing – could be cotton wool
- ☐ 30 cm of narrow ribbon (4 mm width) to make bridle
- ☐ About 12.5 cm of curtain braid for mane
- ☐ Sequins
- ☐ About 30 cm of brightly coloured ribbon for trim, 1 cm wide
- ☐ White and blue cotton
- ☐ Tacking cotton
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Pencil



MAKING UP

Cut out two head patterns and two ear patterns.

Machine the head pieces together with a 5 mm seam allowance and turn up the bottom.

Stuff the head, pushing the pencil up the middle.

Using doubled-up cotton, run a gathering thread round the bottom and secure it tightly.

Make a bridle from the narrow ribbon by gluing it on the back and then securing at the noseband with a couple of small stitches.

Sew a sequin on either side for eyes.

Glue the two pieces of shiny material to the ear patterns.

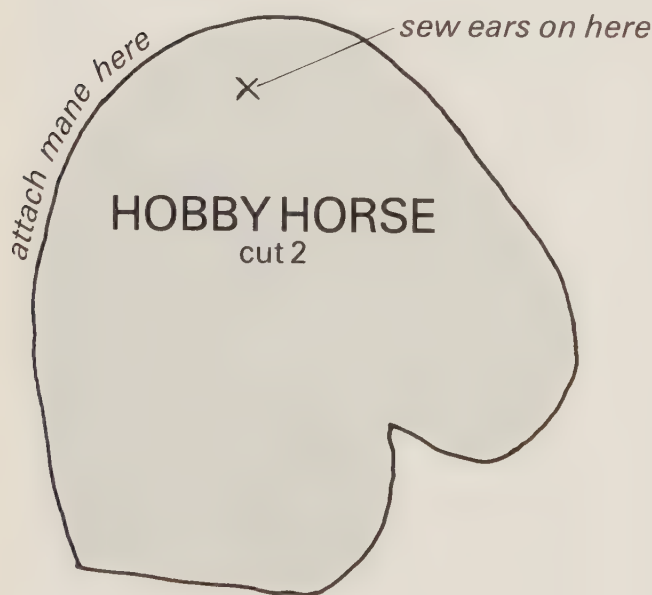
Glue and then sew the ears on.

Sew the mane on down back seam, turning the ends in and neatening off with a few stitches.

Trim with sequins, sewn or glued on to the mane.

Twist wider ribbon round and round the pencil under the hobby horse and then tie in a bow.

Stitch an extra 12.5 cm in a loop and secure behind the ears so that you can hang it up.



EARS
cut 2 whole
2 small

USEFUL ADDRESSES

John Lewis Partnership, Oxford St, London W1 and branches

The Hobby Horse, 15/17 Langton St, London SW10 and mail order

Dryad Craft Centre, P.O. Box 38, Northgate, Leicester: branches and mail order



Sarah Stacey is a freelance writer and television researcher who has contributed articles to *Harpers & Queen*, *Good Housekeeping* and *Business Traveller*. She was formerly a researcher at the *Daily Telegraph* and has worked for BBC TV and Children's Television Workshop, producers of *Sesame Street*.

Toys for Kids is the second in a series for Elm Tree Books; the first was *Cakes for Kids* (1986). Once a children's nanny, Sarah has innumerable godchildren who helped her with this book.

She lives in a rambling Victorian house in West London where many of the toys in this book were photographed.

Toys for Kids is jam-packed with exciting
and original designs for

- * **Lots of different rag dolls**
- * **Teddy bears**
- * **Cuddlies**
- * **Glove puppets**
- * **Christmas tree decorations and party presents**
- * **An enthralling new board game**

All the stencils are life-size and ready to trace

